■ NICHIBUN COMICS ■

永井豪ホラー短編集

髑髏の館

NC
NICHIBUN
COMICS

永井豪ホラー短編集

【髑髏の館】

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■NICHIBUN COMICS■

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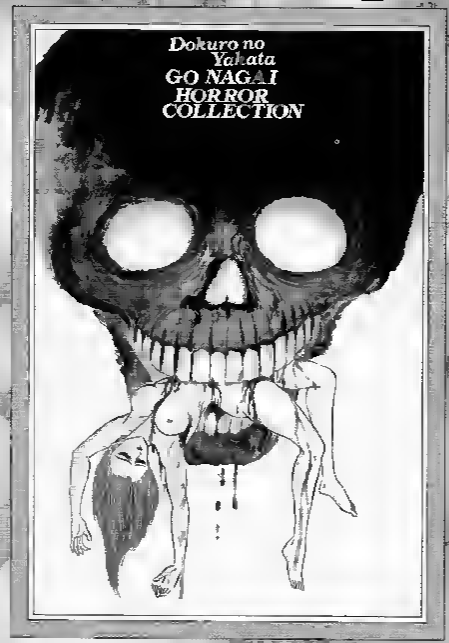

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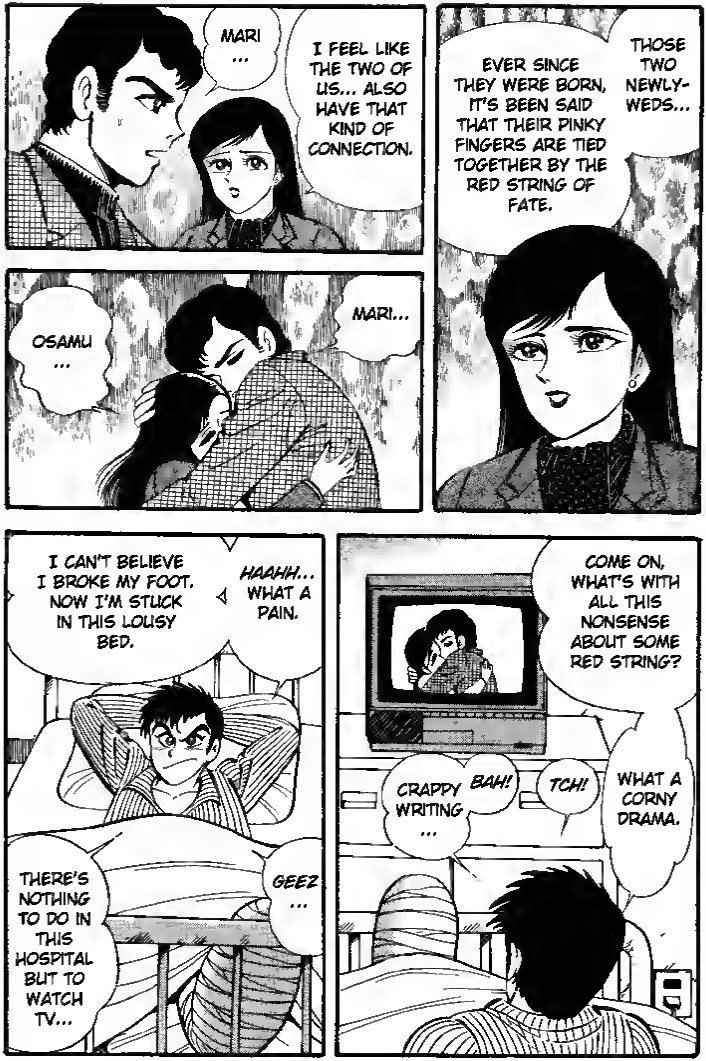
腐肉喫の館

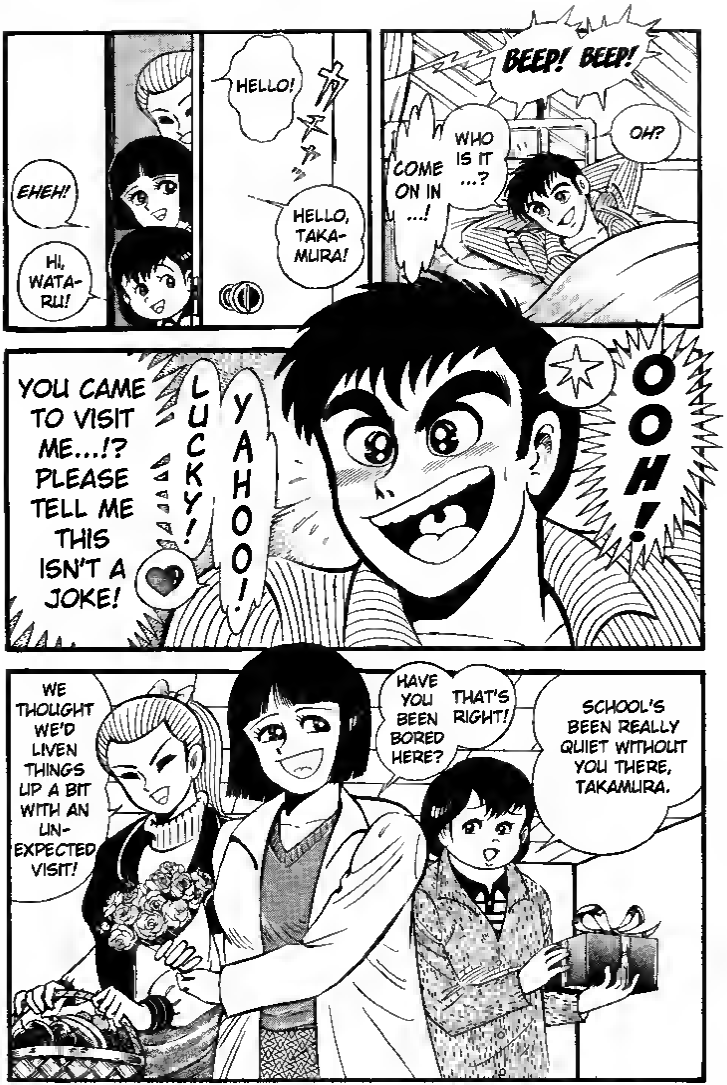
1990年作品

永井豪ホラー短編集

REDSTRING

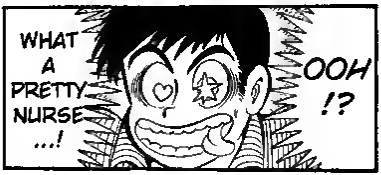
大病院
ピーポー
ピーポー
119
PREPARE 1800cc OF TYPE AB FOR THE TRANS-FUSION!!
HE'S IN DANGER... HE NEEDS A BLOOD TRANS-FUSION!
HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!
GET HIM TO THE ICU!

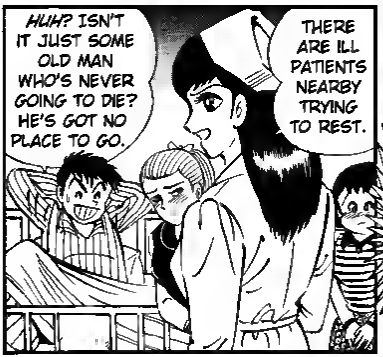

MARI ...
I FEEL LIKE THE TWO OF US... ALSO HAVE THAT KIND OF CONNECTION.
THOSE TWO NEWLY-WEDS...
EVER SINCE THEY WERE BORN, IT'S BEEN SAID THAT THEIR PINKY FINGERS ARE TIED TOGETHER BY THE RED STRING OF FATE.
OSAMU ...
MARI...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I BROKE MY FOOT. NOW I'M STUCK IN THIS LOUSY BED.
HAAHH... WHAT A PAIN.
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO IN THIS HOSPITAL BUT TO WATCH TV...
GEEZ ...
COME ON, WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS NONSENSE ABOUT SOME RED STRING?
WHAT A CORNY DRAMA.
TCH!
BAH!
CRAPPY WRITING ...


BEEP! BEEP!
OH?
WHO IS IT ...?
COME ON IN ...!
HELLO!
ガチャ
HELLO, TAKAMURA!
EHEH!
HI, WATARU!
OOH!
YAHOO!
LUCKY!
YOU CAME TO VISIT ME...!? PLEASE TELL ME THIS ISN'T A JOKE!
SCHOOL'S BEEN REALLY QUIET WITHOUT YOU THERE, TAKAMURA.
THAT'S RIGHT!
HAVE YOU BEEN BORED HERE?
WE THOUGHT WE'D LIVEN THINGS UP A BIT WITH AN UN-EXPECTED VISIT!

HEH HEH ...!
WHAT DID A GUY LIKE ME DO TO EARN A VISIT LIKE THIS?
HAHA HA!
IT'S LIKE I'M DREAMING! EHEH HEH HEH...
I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU!
BREAKING MY LEG AND BEING STUCK IN THE HOSPITAL ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL!
HA HA HA!
WITH YOU GONE, WATARU, I WAS REALLY ...
LONELY♡
HAS THIS PLACE BEEN LONELY, TOO!?
KYAA!

GEEZ ...
KYAA-!
OH!
WHAT AMAZING PANTIES ...!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING !?
KYAHAHA!


WHAT A PRETTY NURSE ...!
OOH !?


HUH? ISN'T IT JUST SOME OLD MAN WHO'S NEVER GOING TO DIE? HE'S GOT NO PLACE TO GO.
THERE ARE ILL PATIENTS NEARBY TRYING TO REST.

QUIET DOWN IN HERE ...!

WHY IS SHE SICK?
OH... A CUTE, YOUNG GIRL.
IT'S HER HEART ...
I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF PENT UP ENERGY, BUT YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT QUIET.
THERE'S A YOUNG GIRL ABOUT YOUR AGE...
WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE IF SHE WILL SURVIVE THE NIGHT IN HER CONDITION.
THAT NIGHT ...

HEH HEH HEH!
N-NOTHIN' ...
AH! ★
IT'S PAST LIGHTS OUT TIME! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WHILE YOU LOOK AT THAT BOOK!?
HEE HEE, IS THAT TRUE? REALLY ...?
GEH!?
HM? YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN YOUR MEDICINE.
LET ME HELP YOU. ♥
WHAT A DIFFI-CULT CHILD ...

EEH !?
YOU'RE YOUNG, SO I GUESS YOU HAVE A LOT OF PENT-UP ENERGY.♥
HEH HEH HEH...
AH !?
WHA- !?

HA HAA HA...
AMAZING! YOU FILLED UP MY ENTIRE MOUTH...♡
UNGYAAH!
HEE HEE...
YOU'RE AN ENERGETIC BOY, SO I'LL LET YOU UNLOAD INSIDE OF ME.

WAH!

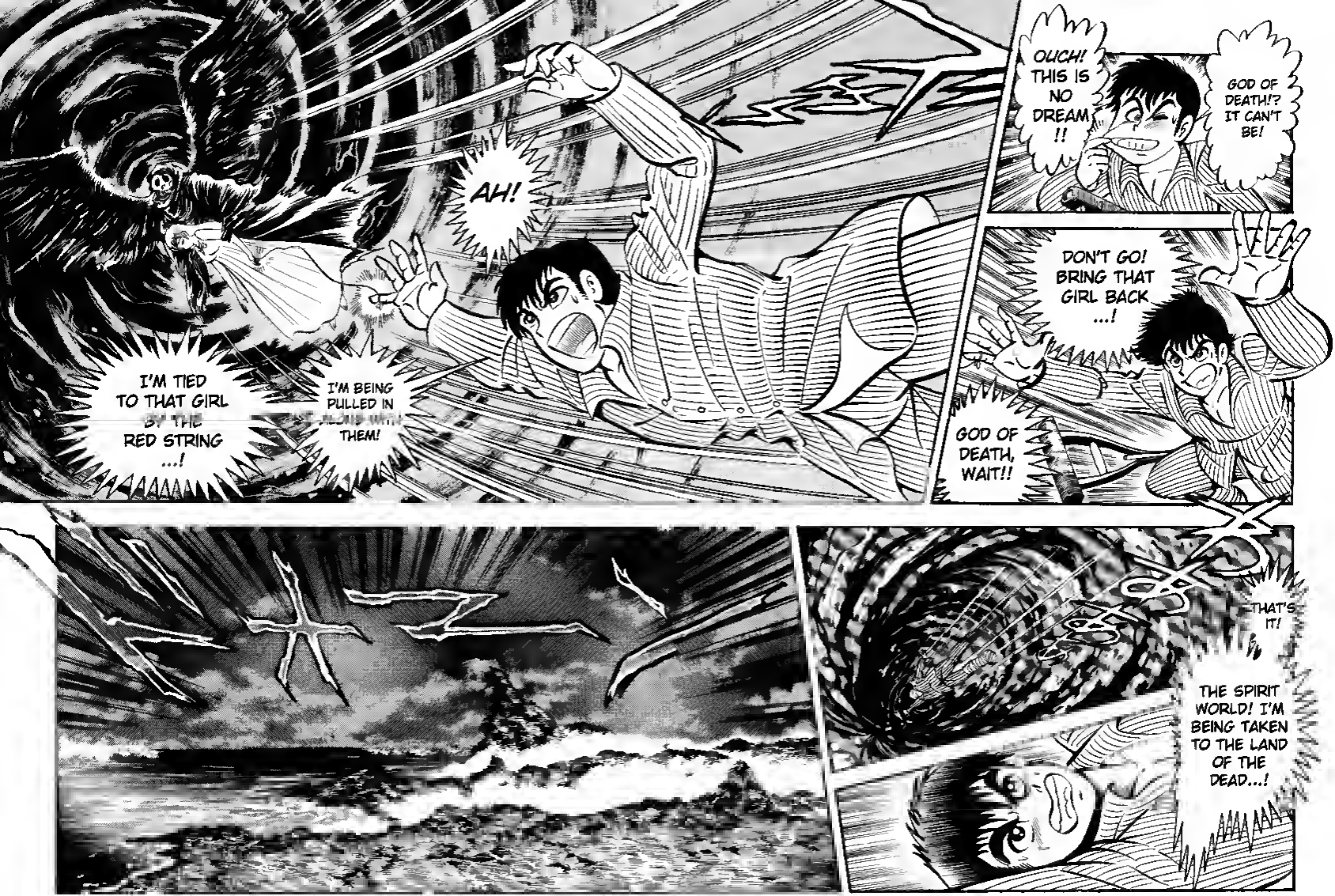
TAKE THIS, BITCH ...!
YOU ...!
AAAHN!
IT'S THE SIZE OF MY CAST!
AAHN! SO GOOD ...!

UGH... WHAT KIND OF DREAM WAS THAT?
IT'S ONLY TWO IN THE MORNING
I GUESS I REALLY DO HAVE TOO MUCH PENT-UP ENERGY...
!?
WHY IS THERE A RED STRING ON MY PINKY?
THIS IS A RED STRING ...?
HUH !?
IT... IT LEADS OUT-SIDE THE DOOR
HMM... BUT WHAT IS IT TIED TO?
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE THE "RED STRING OF FATE"?
IT MUST BE THOSE GIRLS FROM CLASS PLAYING A TRICK ON ME.
HEH... DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

I'VE GOT TO WALK.
THIS IS PRETTY HARD...
SERIOUSLY... WHERE DOES THIS THING LEAD TO?
UWAH!
UH...!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT!?
YOU SHOULD BE ASLEEP IN BED ...!
UMM... I WAS GOING FOR A CIGA-
I MEAN, I WAS GOING TO THE BATH-ROOM...

コツ
コツ
SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE STRING. MAYBE SHE CAN'T SEE IT?
YES, MA'AM.
MAKE SURE TO KEEP QUIET AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT. REALLY...
THIS ROOM ...?
ガチャッ
STAY OUT? BUT THE STRING IS COMING FROM RIGHT UNDER THIS DOOR...
Intensive Care Unit (ICU)
For the sake of critical patients, unrelated people should stay out.
A HEART MONITOR, HUH?
OH, NO! IT STOPPED ...!
!?
BEEEP!

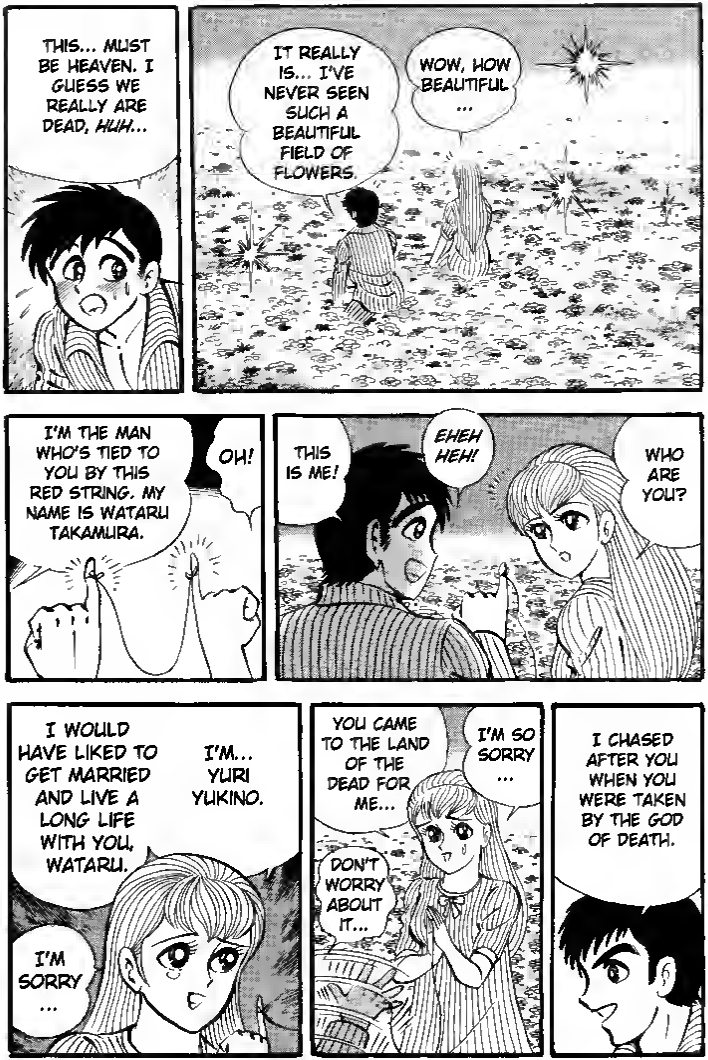
HUH !?
T-
THE GOD OF DEATH ...!?


OUCH! THIS IS NO DREAM !!
GOD OF DEATH!? IT CAN'T BE!
DON'T GO! BRING THAT GIRL BACK ...!
GOD OF DEATH, WAIT!!
AH!
I'M TIED TO THAT GIRL BY THE RED STRING ...!
I'M BEING PULLED IN ALONG WITH THEM!
THAT'S IT!
THE SPIRIT WORLD! I'M BEING TAKEN TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD...!

THERE ARE LOTS OF DEAD PEOPLE CROSSING IT.
COULD THIS BE...!? THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT! THE SANZU RIVER ...!
UH-OH! IF I DON'T GET THAT GIRL BACK SOON, I WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING!
IF THE GIRL I'M TIED TO DIES... WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME!?
DAMN IT!
I HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN THE CHANCE TO MARRY YET!
THIS IS NO JOKE!

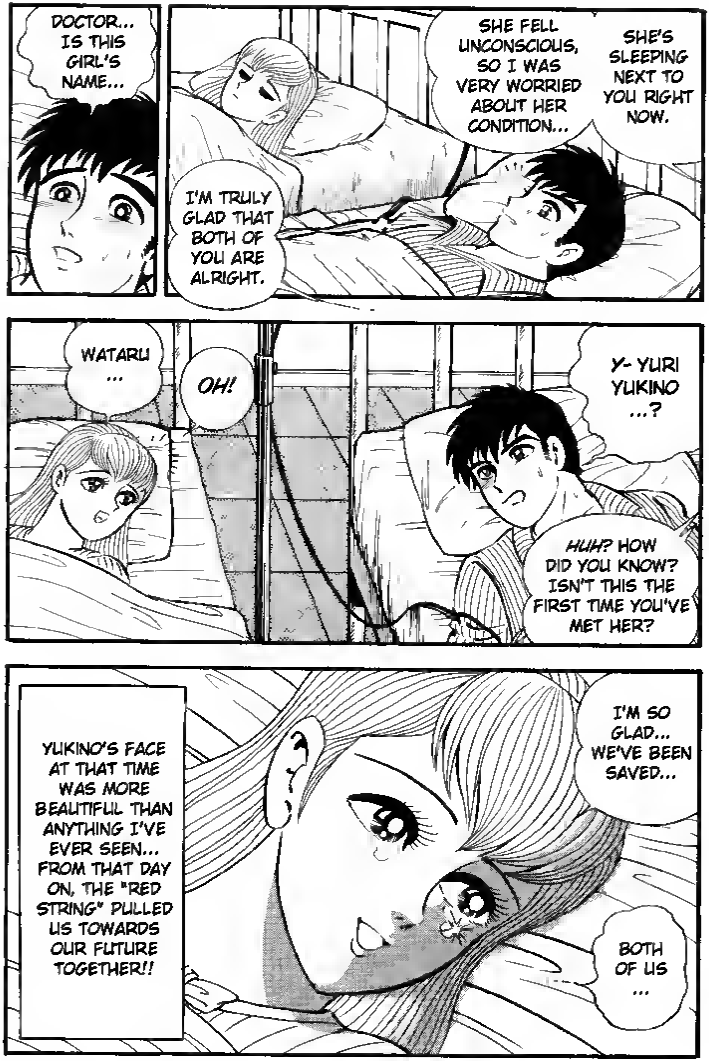
SPECIAL SKILL: ROPE CLIMB!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF GIRL SHE IS, BUT I'LL MARRY HER-!!
G- GIVE HER BACK!
WHA-!?
SPECIAL SKILL TWO: SKIRT FLIPPING!
THAT'S IT! THE GOD OF DEATH IS... A MAN!!

GYAH!
FINISHING BLOW... BALL CRUSHING PLASTER KICK!!
AAAH!
WE'RE FALL-ING!


THIS... MUST BE HEAVEN. I GUESS WE REALLY ARE DEAD, HUH...
IT REALLY IS... I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL FIELD OF FLOWERS.
WOW, HOW BEAUTIFUL ...
I'M THE MAN WHO'S TIED TO YOU BY THIS RED STRING. MY NAME IS WATARU TAKAMURA.
OH!
THIS IS ME!
EHEH HEH!
WHO ARE YOU?
I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO GET MARRIED AND LIVE A LONG LIFE WITH YOU, WATARU.
I'M... YURI YUKINO.
I'M SORRY ...
YOU CAME TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD FOR ME...
I'M SO SORRY ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
I CHASED AFTER YOU WHEN YOU WERE TAKEN BY THE GOD OF DEATH.

I'LL CUT THAT RED STRING ...!
KYAA!
WATARU TAKAMURA, YOU AREN'T DEAD JUST YET...!
YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE!
GO BACK !!
AH!
YUKINO ...!

AAAAHHH!
HUH!? NO WAY... DIDN'T I HAVE A BROKEN LEG?
YOU HAD A BIKE ACCIDENT AND YOU'VE BEEN IN CRITICAL CONDITION FOR THREE DAYS.
GOOD, YOU'RE AWAKE.
AH-!
HM? THE RED STRING? NO... IT'S FOR THE BLOOD TRANSFUSION ...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU NEEDED A LOT OF BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS TO STABILIZE. EVEN AFTER TEN OF YOUR FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL HELPED, IT STILL WASN'T ENOUGH...
LEG? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR LEG.
!?
SHE SAID THAT SHE WANTED TO SAVE YOUR LIFE NO MATTER WHAT. EVEN IF IT PUT HER LIFE IN DANGER, SHE WANTED TO GIVE YOU BLOOD.
HOWEVER, A GIRL IN THIS HOSPITAL OFFERED TO DONATE BLOOD.


DOCTOR... IS THIS GIRL'S NAME...
SHE'S SLEEPING NEXT TO YOU RIGHT NOW.
SHE FELL UNCONSCIOUS, SO I WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT HER CONDITION...
I'M TRULY GLAD THAT BOTH OF YOU ARE ALRIGHT.
WATARU ...
OH!
Y- YURI YUKINO ...?
HUH? HOW DID YOU KNOW? ISN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE MET HER?
YUKINO'S FACE AT THAT TIME WAS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN... FROM THAT DAY ON, THE "RED STRING" PULLED US TOWARDS OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!!
I'M SO GLAD... WE'VE BEEN SAVED...
BOTH OF US ...

RED STRING···END

1993年作品

永井豪ホラー短編集

鬼ごっこ

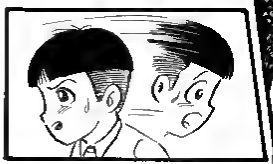
ONIGOKKO: HIDE AND SEEK

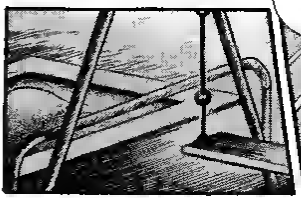
ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS !!
ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS !
HEY, WHY AREN'T YOU DOING IT TOO?
I BET YOU'RE JUST GOING TO WATCH TV!
YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH US!
HUH!?
NO!
WHAT!?
MY PARENTS WILL GET MAD AT ME
IT'S GETTING LATE AND DINNER'S SOON
BUT... I HAVE TO GO HOME.
I HEARD THEY GOT A COLOR TV TO WATCH THE TOKYO OLYMPICS
IT'S BECAUSE HE HAS A COLOR TV.
WHAAAT!?
LIAR! YOU THINK YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO PLAY WITH US BECAUSE YOU COME FROM TOKYO!
OH, I KNOW.
TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE!

LET'S PLAY HIDE AND SEEK!
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING! NO MATTER WHAT ...!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME BECAUSE OF THE COLOR TELEVISION!
IS THAT TRUE, KENBO? I GUESS PEOPLE FROM TOKYO REALLY ARE DIFFERENT.
YEAH!
DEMONS!
AND ALL OF US WILL BE THE...
YOU GO AND HIDE!
BUT, I...
HIDE ...!
T-THAT'S ...!
UNDER-STAND !?
THEN ALL OF US WILL BEAT YOU UP! IT'LL BE A LYNCHING ...!
IF WE CAN FIND YOU WITHIN ONE HOUR ...
HUH !?
THAT MEANS ...
UNDER-STAND, KENBO ...?

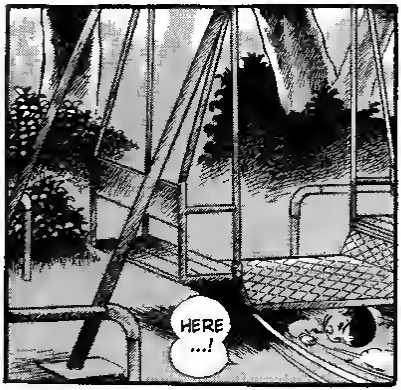
NOTE "DEMON" IS THE SEEKER IN THE JAPANESE VERSION OF THE GAME

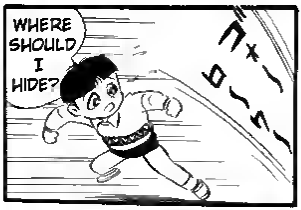
ONE!
TWO!
THREE ...!
HEH HEH

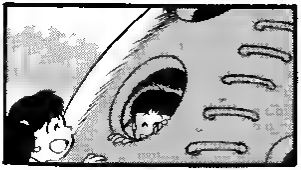




GO! HIDE QUICKLY ...!
WE'RE GONNA COUNT TO TEN!
YOU'RE DEAD MEAT IF YOU LEAVE THE PARK!
WE'LL CUT YOU UP!!
IF WE CATCH YOU, WE'LL SMASH YOUR HEAD IN!
HURRY UP AND HIDE, KENBO!
AH!
OH ...!

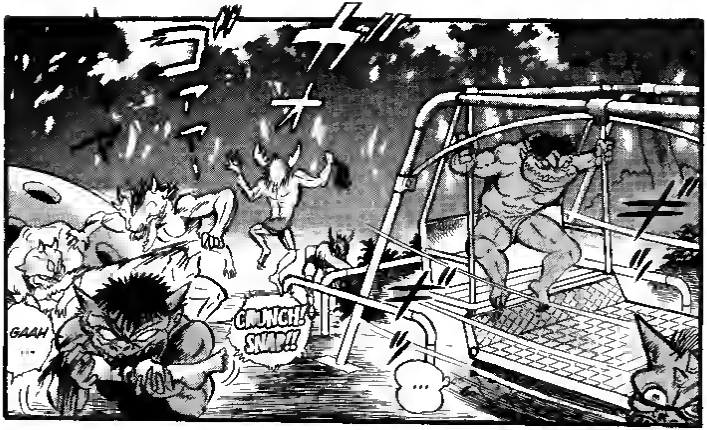

HERE ...!

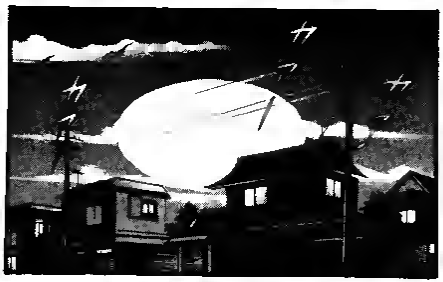

WHERE SHOULD I HIDE?



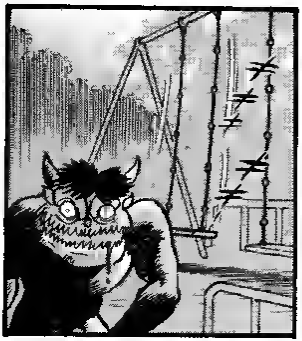
READY OR NOT, HERE COME THE DEMONS!
TEN!
NINE ...!
EIGHT ...!
AAAHH!
UAAGH!
GAH!
HUH !?

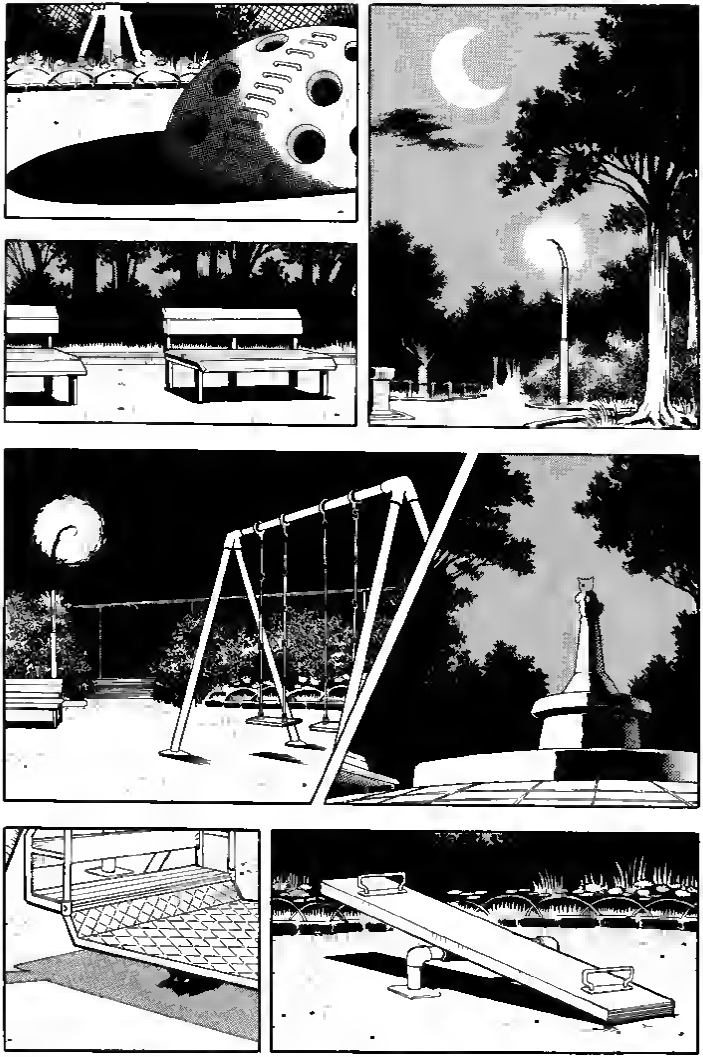
DEMONS...! THEY REALLY TURNED INTO DEMONS!?
AAH-!


GAAH
...
CRUNCH!
SNAP!!
...



GUH!
GEH
HEH
HEH
...
GAH!





TH-
THEY'RE GONE...
NO ONE...
NO ONE'S HERE...
THEY ALL WENT HOME...
I'M S- SO GLAD.
THEY... DIDN'T FIND ME...
I SHOULD GO HOME...
AS WELL...
HM...
...

ドン
OOF !!
AAAH!
UWAH!
AH!

...
OH!
PA-PA!?
WHAT'S WRONG, KENBO?
DEMONS...?
DEMONS! THE DEMONS WERE ...!
IT'S LATE AND YOU HAVEN'T COME HOME YET.
PAPA!
WERE THE OTHER KIDS BULLYING YOU?

HMM... THERE'S NO ONE HERE AND THERE AREN'T ANY BLOOD-STAINS.
...
YOU PROBABLY JUST THOUGHT YOU SAW THEM AND IMAGINED THE WHOLE THING.
THEY WERE ALL MAKING FUN OF YOU, KENBO.
BECAUSE YOU STAYED OUT LATE PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK INSTEAD OF COMING HOME.
ALTHOUGH... I THOUGHT I SAW SOME DEMONS EARLIER.
HUH ...?
THERE ARE NO DEMONS HERE.
OKAY ...
THEY ALL LEFT AS SOON AS YOU HID YOURSELF.
NOT EVEN ONE OF THEM STAYED TO LOOK FOR YOU.
IT WAS JUST A CHILDISH PRANK.

ONIGOKKO: HIDE AND SEEK‥END

1993年作品

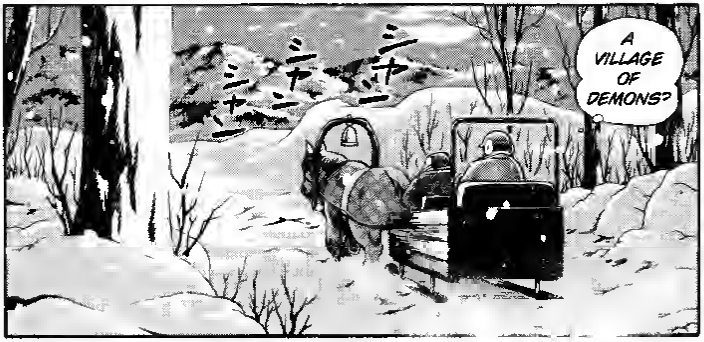
永井豪ホラー短編集

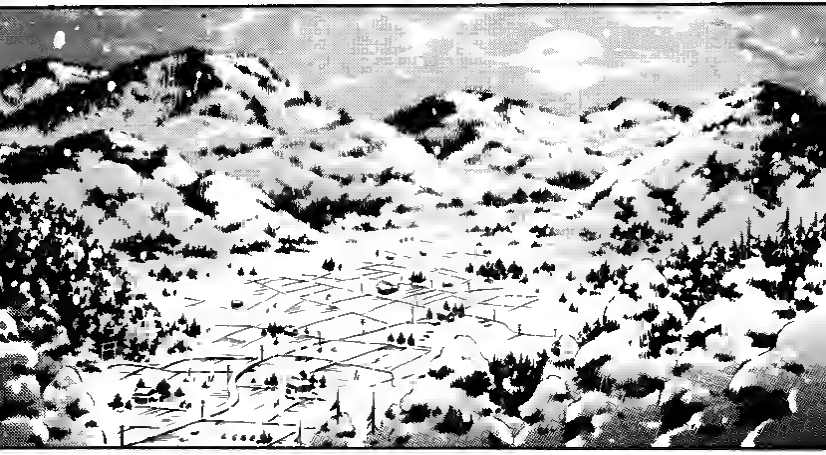
鬼婚式

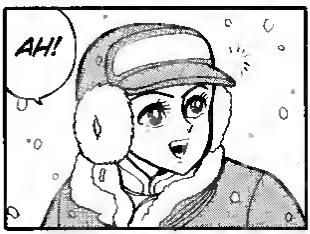
DEMON WEDDING

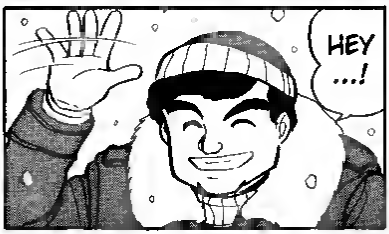
CARS CAN'T MOVE WELL IN THIS THICK SNOW, AND THE GASOLINE EXHAUST GETS EVERYTHING DIRTY.
IT'S SO ROMANTIC ...
IT'S INCREDIBLE, TRAVELLING IN A HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE LIKE THIS.

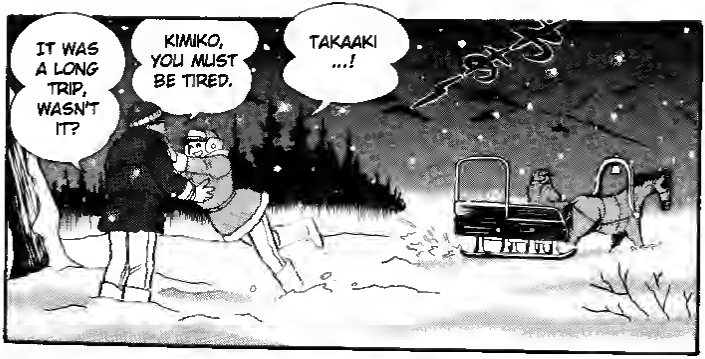
I SEE.
IT WAS JUST ME AND MY MOTHER, BUT SHE DIED..
ACTUALLY, I'M GOING TO BE MARRIED.
BUT, I DON'T GET MANY CUSTOMERS WHO TRAVEL ALONE TO THIS LITTLE VILLAGE.
OH, I SEE.
HE'S NOT FROM THE CITY, BUT HE HAS A WARM HEART...
I DON'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES EITHER, SO I'M TRAVELLING TO MEET HIM ON MY OWN.
HUH ...!?
IT'S A VILLAGE OF DEMONS, YOU KNOW.

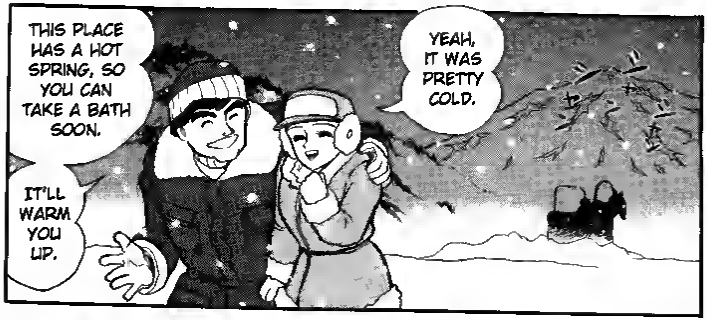

A VILLAGE OF DEMONS?



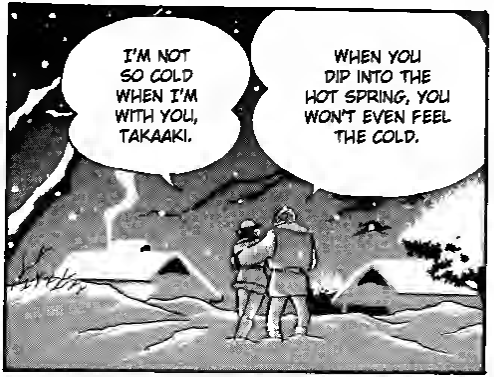

AH!

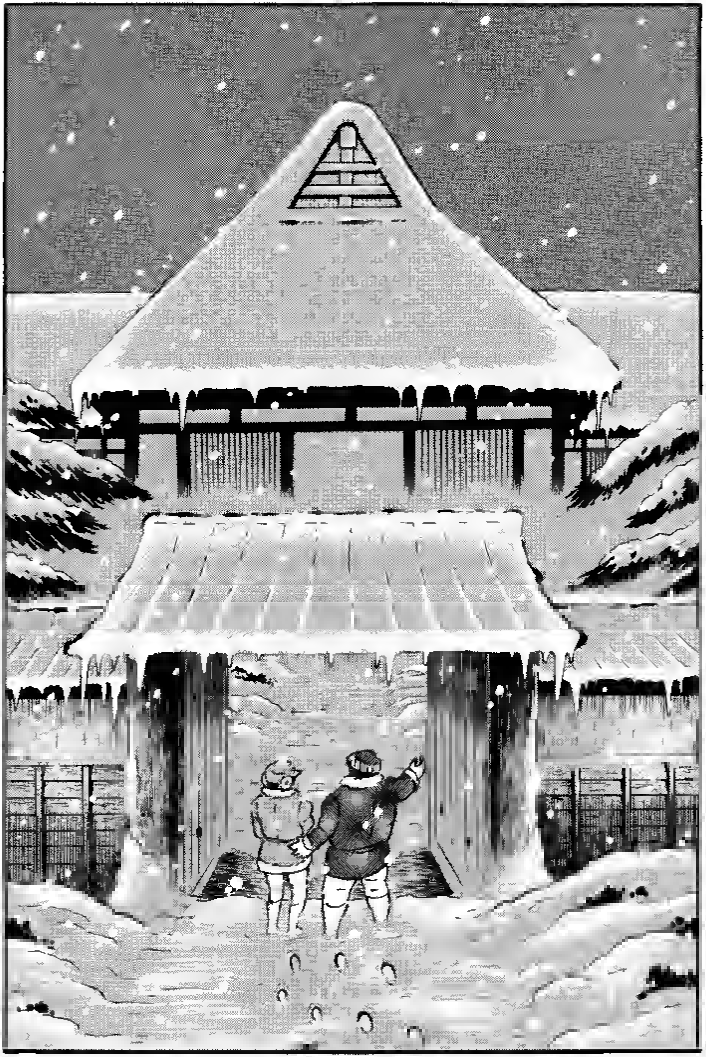

HEY ...!

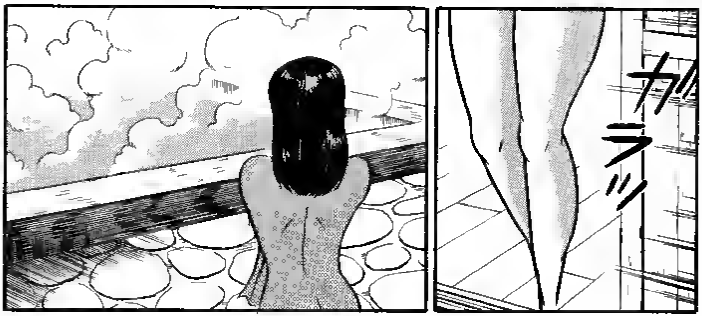

IT WAS A LONG TRIP, WASN'T IT?
KIMIKO, YOU MUST BE TIRED.
TAKAAKI ...!


THIS PLACE HAS A HOT SPRING, SO YOU CAN TAKE A BATH SOON.
IT'LL WARM YOU UP.
YEAH, IT WAS PRETTY COLD.

YEAH. THE BEST IN THE VILLAGE
WOW! IS THIS HUGE HOUSE YOURS?


I'M NOT SO COLD WHEN I'M WITH YOU, TAKAAKI.
WHEN YOU DIP INTO THE HOT SPRING, YOU WON'T EVEN FEEL THE COLD.

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FUU
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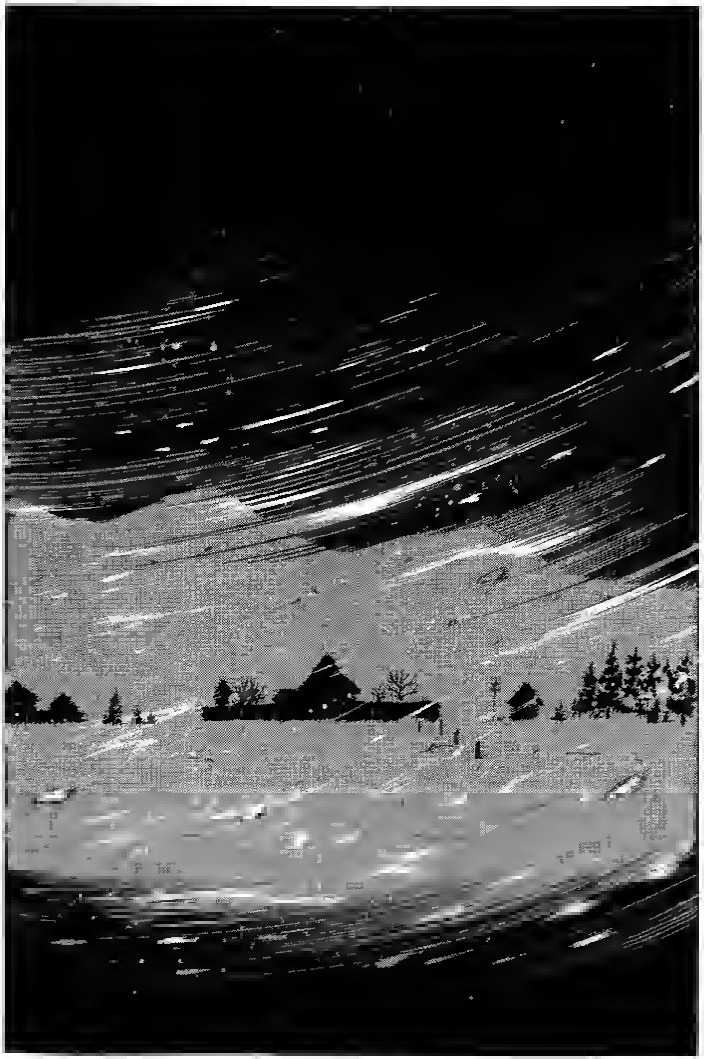
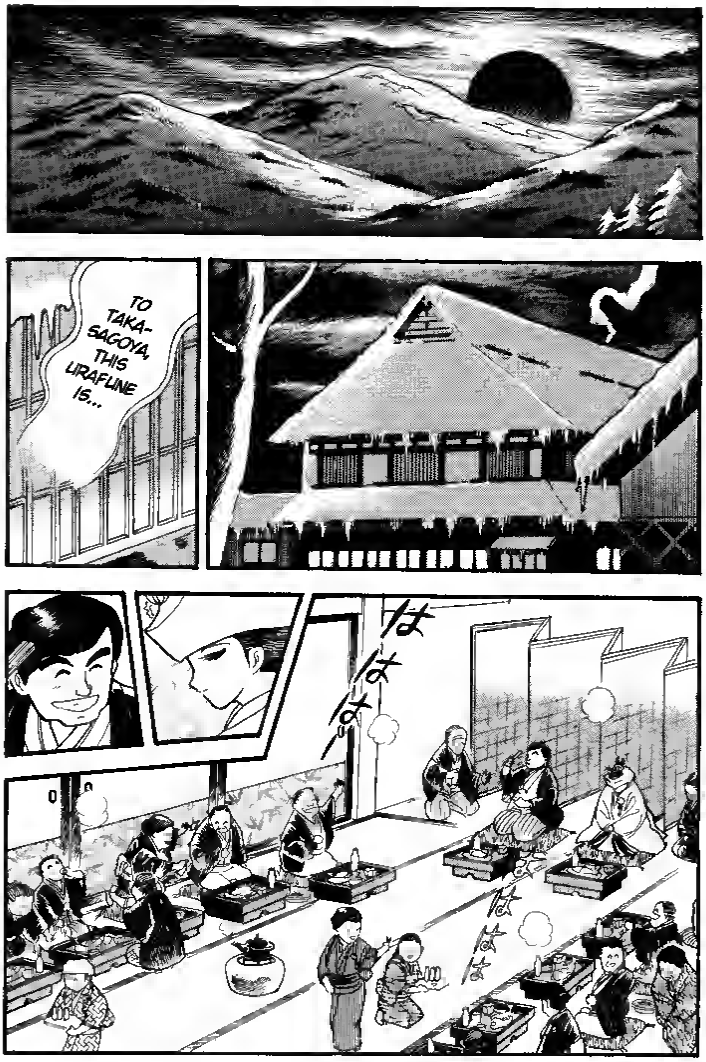
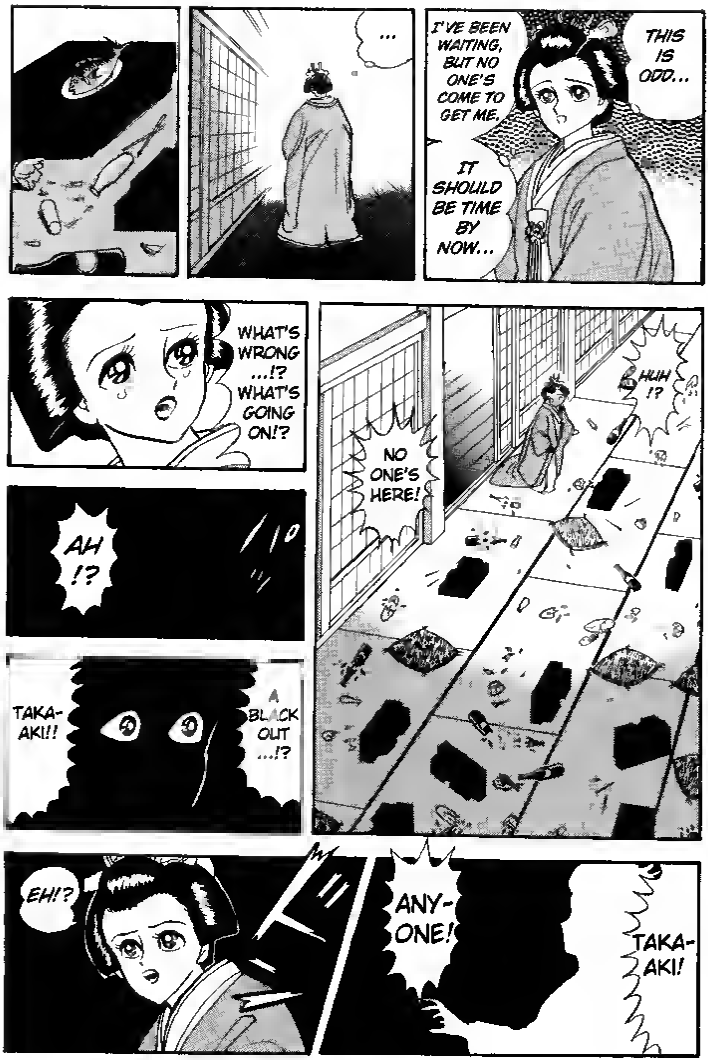
THEY'RE ALL REALLY NICE PEOPLE.
HIS FATHER AND MOTHER ARE SO KIND.
I WAS NERV-OUS.
BUT NOW I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.




TO TAKA-SAGOYA, THIS URAFUNE IS...
はは

THERE HASN'T BEEN SUCH A YOUNG AND PRETTY GIRL IN THE VILLAGE IN A LONG TIME.
DON'T CRY LIKE THAT.
I'M SO GLAD ...!
HA HA HA !!
PRETTY!
HER SKIN IS AS WHITE AS SNOW...
IT'S TRUE.
TAKAAKI IS REALLY LUCKY! GETTING SUCH A PRETTY WIFE FROM TOKYO TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT TO OUR LITTLE VILLAGE!
EVERYONE IN THIS VILLAGE IS SO HAPPY FOR MY WEDDING.
AMAZING, I FEEL SO HAPPY.
A ROUND OF APPLAUSE PLEASE.
EVERYONE, THE NEW BRIDE WILL COME THROUGH NOW.
STRANGE ...
...


...
I'VE BEEN WAITING, BUT NO ONE'S COME TO GET ME.
IT SHOULD BE TIME BY NOW...
THIS IS ODD...
WHAT'S WRONG ...!? WHAT'S GOING ON!?
NO ONE'S HERE!
HUH !?
AH !?
TAKA-AKI!!
A BLACK OUT ...!?
EH!?
ANY-ONE!
TAKA-AKI!

ドドド

AAH!!
WHO IS IT!? ARE YOU BEATING DRUMS FOR THE CEREMONY ..!?
キャあ
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TAKA-
AKI!
SAVE
ME!!
HELP
ME,
TAKA-
AKI!

AAAAH!
AAH ...!

NO! GET AWAY ...!
AAH ...!
KYAAA-!

AH
!!

KYAAAA!

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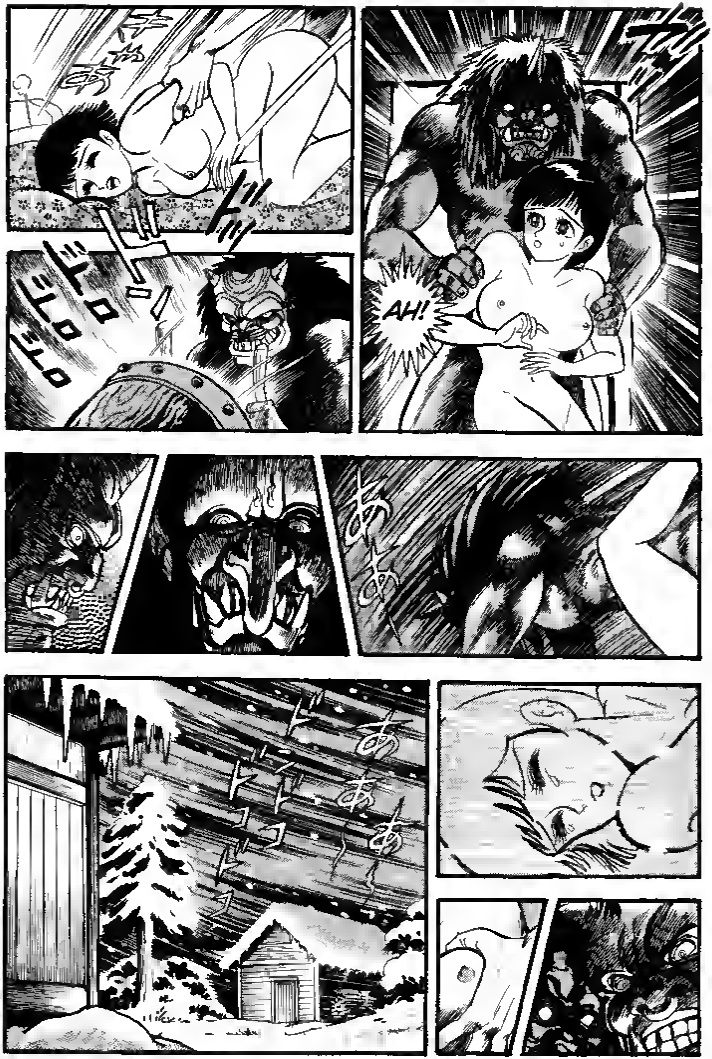
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AH ...!
TAKA AKI ...!
HA HA!
AH !!
OK.
GROOM, IT'S MY TURN NOW.
THIS HAS BEEN THE WAY WE HOLD WEDDINGS IN THIS VILLAGE SINCE ANCIENT TIMES!
!
!?
AFTER THAT, IT'S ME.
NOOO!
I'LL TAKE OVER AFTER THAT.
AND OF COURSE, I'M AFTER HIM.
THEN ME.

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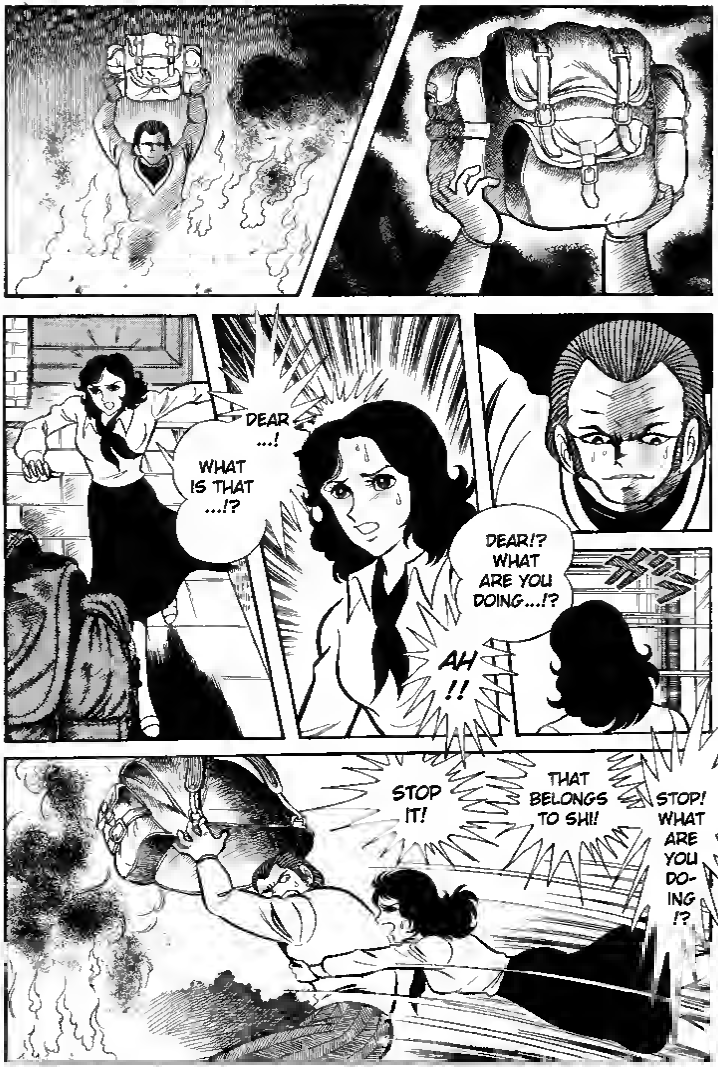
1977年作品

永井豪ホラー短編集

遺品

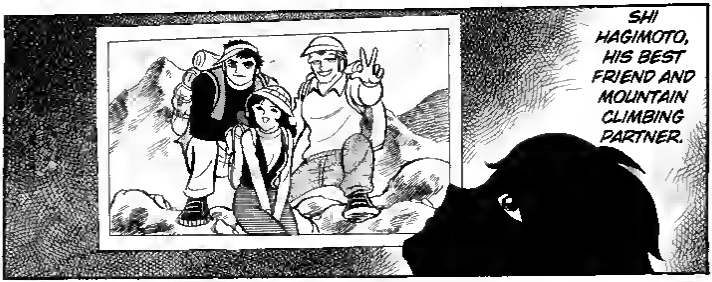
PROPERTY OF THE DECEASED

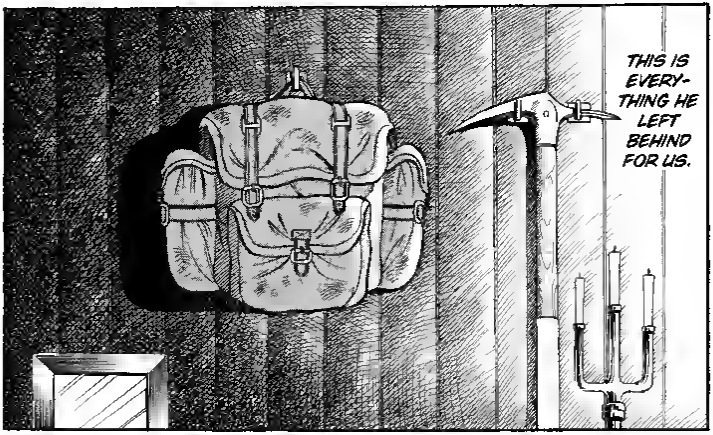
Original Creator - Kouenji Hiroshi

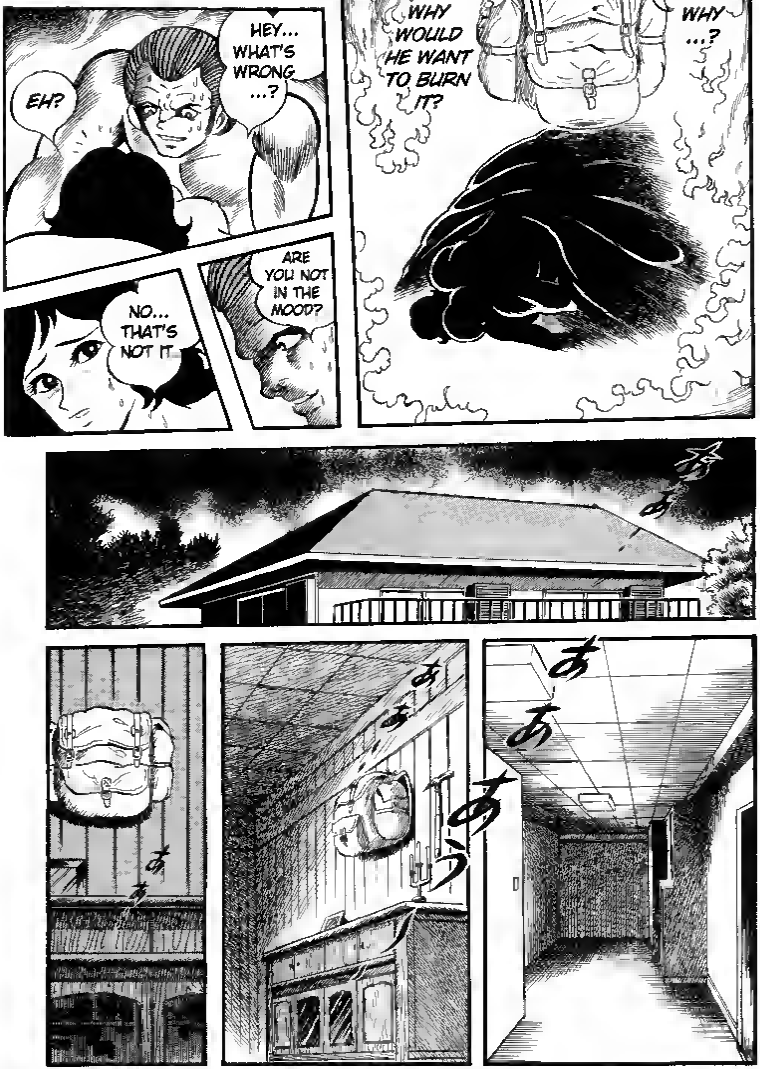

DEAR ...!
WHAT IS THAT ...!?
DEAR!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING...!?
AH !!
STOP IT!
THAT BELONGS TO SHI!
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DO-ING !?

STOP ...!
HA HA ...
WHY DID HE ...
THAT BAG ...
WHY WOULD HE WANT TO BURN IT NOW ...?

IT BELONGED TO MY OLD LOVER, SHI.


SHI HAGIMOTO, HIS BEST FRIEND AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBING PARTNER.


THIS IS EVERY-THING HE LEFT BEHIND FOR US.


HEY... WHAT'S WRONG ...?
EH?
ARE YOU NOT IN THE MOOD?
NO... THAT'S NOT IT
WHY WOULD HE WANT TO BURN IT?
WHY ...?
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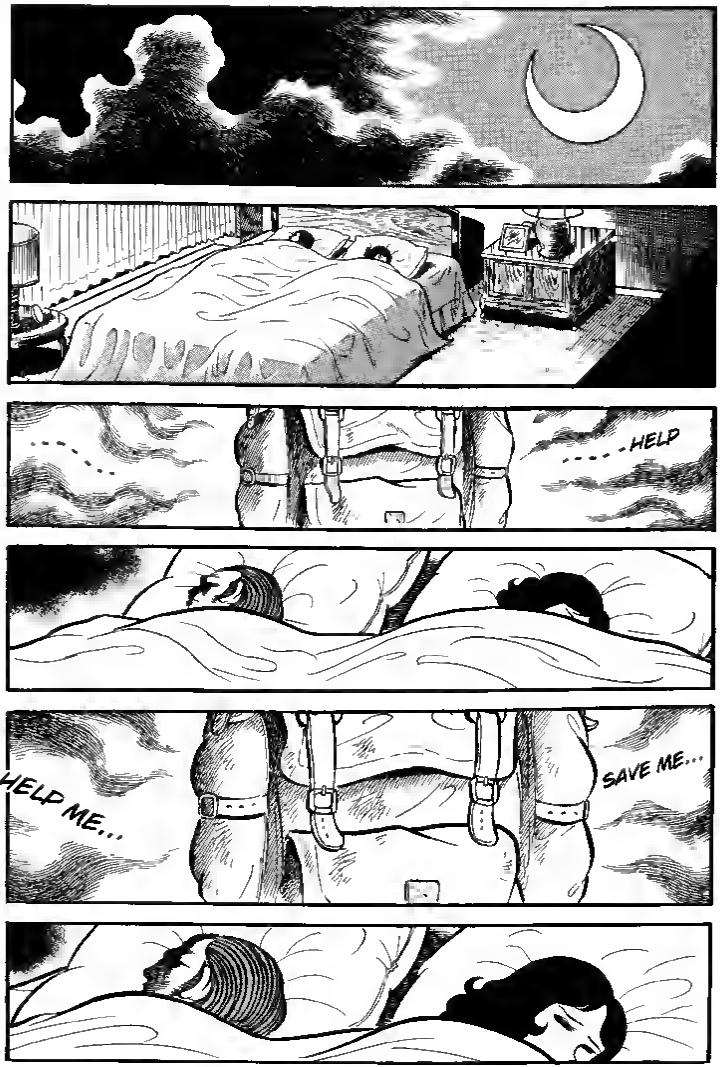
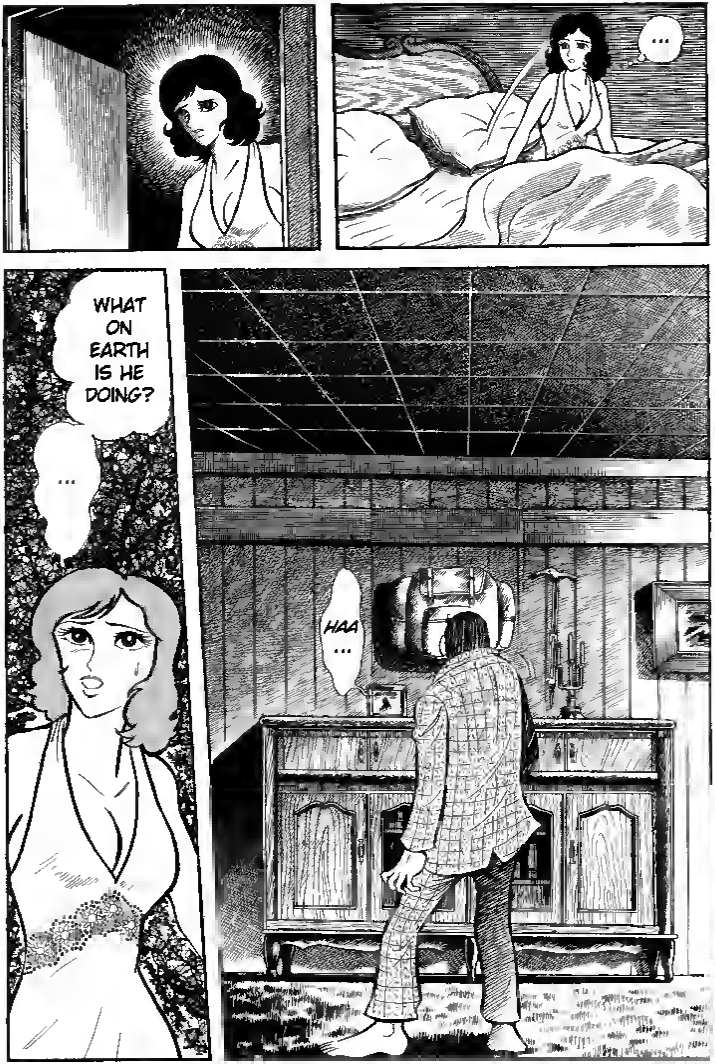

.....
.....HELP
HELP ME...
SAVE ME...

HELP...
HELP ME...
AH...!
SAVE ME!
HELP ME!
THAT'S ENOUGH! PLEASE STOP...!
NO!

HELP ME
SAVE ME
STOP ...
PLEASE STOP...!
AHH!
HUH ...!?


...
WHAT ON EARTH IS HE DOING?
...
HAA ...

...HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR A MONTH NOW.
HE HASN'T SAID ANY-THING TO ME, BUT...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEEN A YEAR ...
SINCE I BECAME HIS IN BOTH BODY AND SOUL.
HE KEEPS TRYING TO BURN SHI'S BAG.
HE HAS THE SAME NIGHT-MARE EVERY NIGHT...
THIS IS WHAT HE'S BECOME.
WHY NOW...?
BUT WHY ...?
I THOUGHT HE DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT THE BAG WAS AND TRIED TO THROW IT OUT BY ACCIDENT...
WHY IS HE OBSESSING OVER THE BAG NOW?
HA ...
HAA
HAA ...

DEAR ...!
AH!
NO MORE!
STOP!
DEAR ...
MISA ...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
UH!
AS MY HUSBAND, YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
I'M ...!
I'M ...

THE BAG'S VOICE?
YES ...!
THE BAG'S VOICE ...!
B-BUT MISA!
THE VOICE FROM THE BAG!
IT'S TRUE ...
CAN'T YOU HEAR IT...?
DEAR ...
ITS VOICE ...!
THE VOICE ...
CAN'T YOU HEAR IT!?
...
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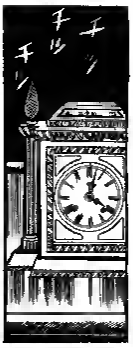
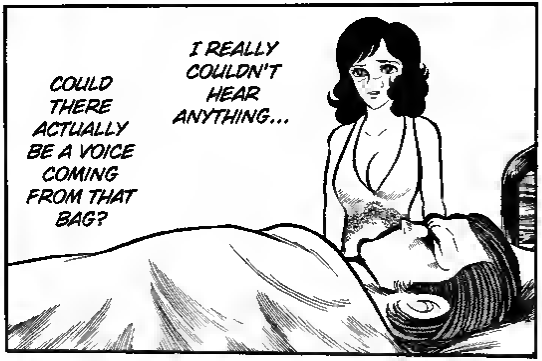
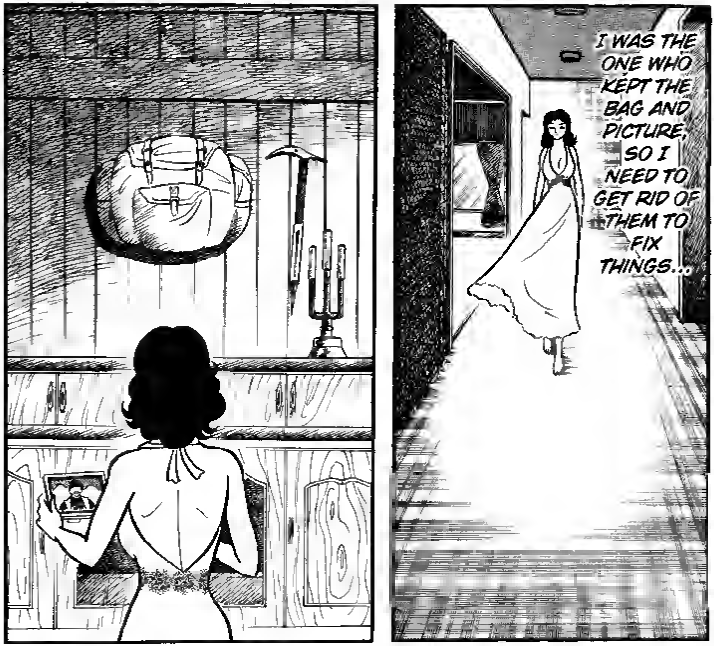




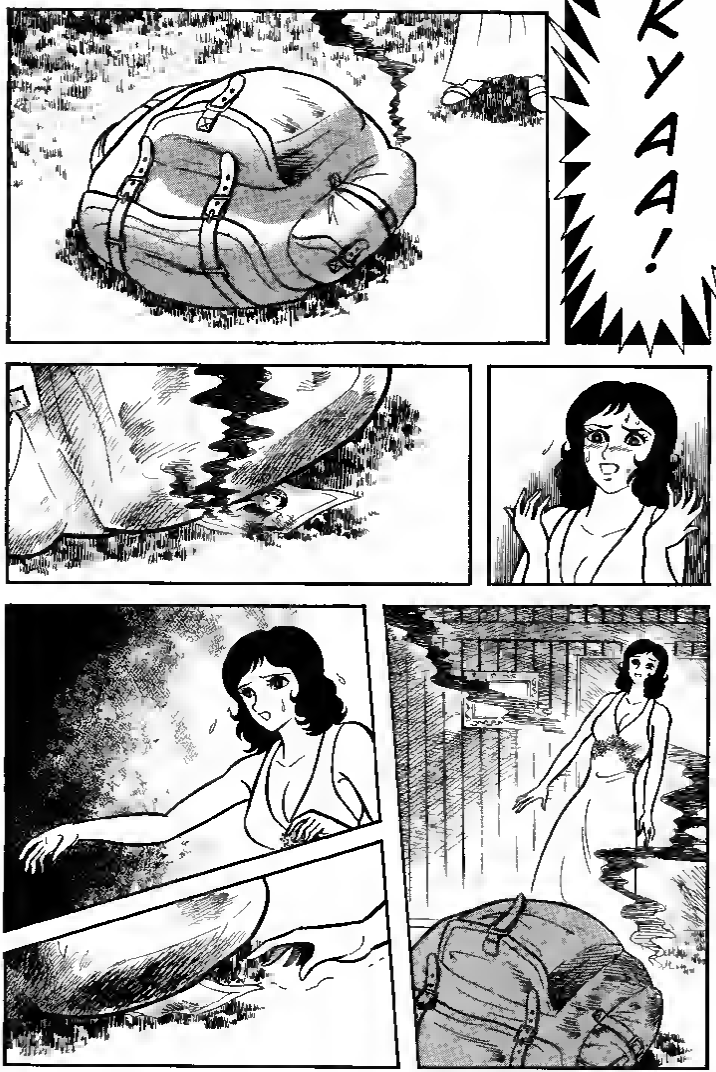
MAYBE WE REALLY SHOULD GET RID OF IT...

ヒュウウウ
BACK THEN, I WAS SHI HAGIMOTO'S LOVER.
TAKASE WAS SHI'S BEST FRIEND AND FELLOW CLIMBER
AND TAKASE IS MY HUSBAND!
BUT EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED NOW... HAGIMOTO IS DEAD.

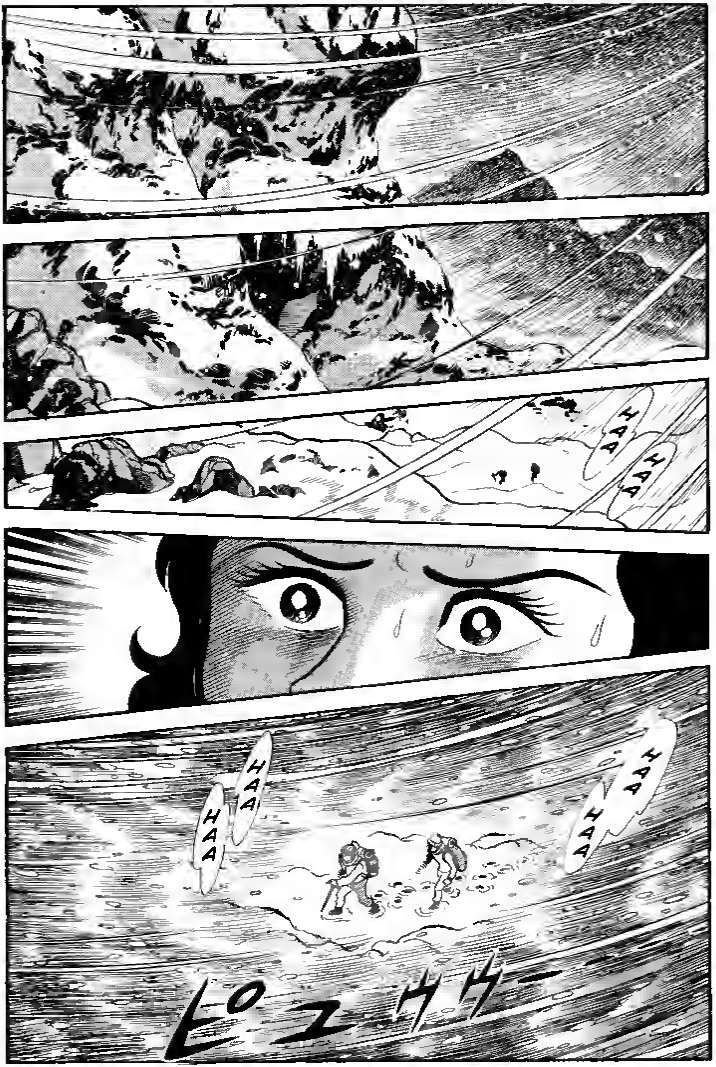
THE SADNESS WAS MORE THAN I COULD BEAR...! BUT HE WAS THERE FOR ME.
THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT... HAGIMOTO WENT MISSING.
AND WE WERE MARRIED...
OUR FEELINGS BECAME LOVE...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
I HUNG THEM UP AS MEMENTOS.
BUT... I ALWAYS KEPT HAGIMOTO'S BAG AND PICTURE.
THAT BAG AND PICTURE ...!
TAKASE COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED HIMSELF GIVING ME LOVE AND HAPPINESS, AND NOW HE'S BECOME NEUROTIC!


I WAS THE ONE WHO KEPT THE BAG AND PICTURE. SO I NEED TO GET RID OF THEM TO FIX THINGS...

I GUESS IT'S TIME TO COMPLETELY SEPARATE MYSELF FROM YOU
YOU'RE A PRECIOUS PART OF MY YOUTH.
BUT... RIGHT NOW, TAKASE IS EVEN MORE PRECIOUS TO ME.
I'M GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH HIM.
GOODBYE, MY YOUTH ...


KYAA!

AAH!
WHAT IS THIS !?

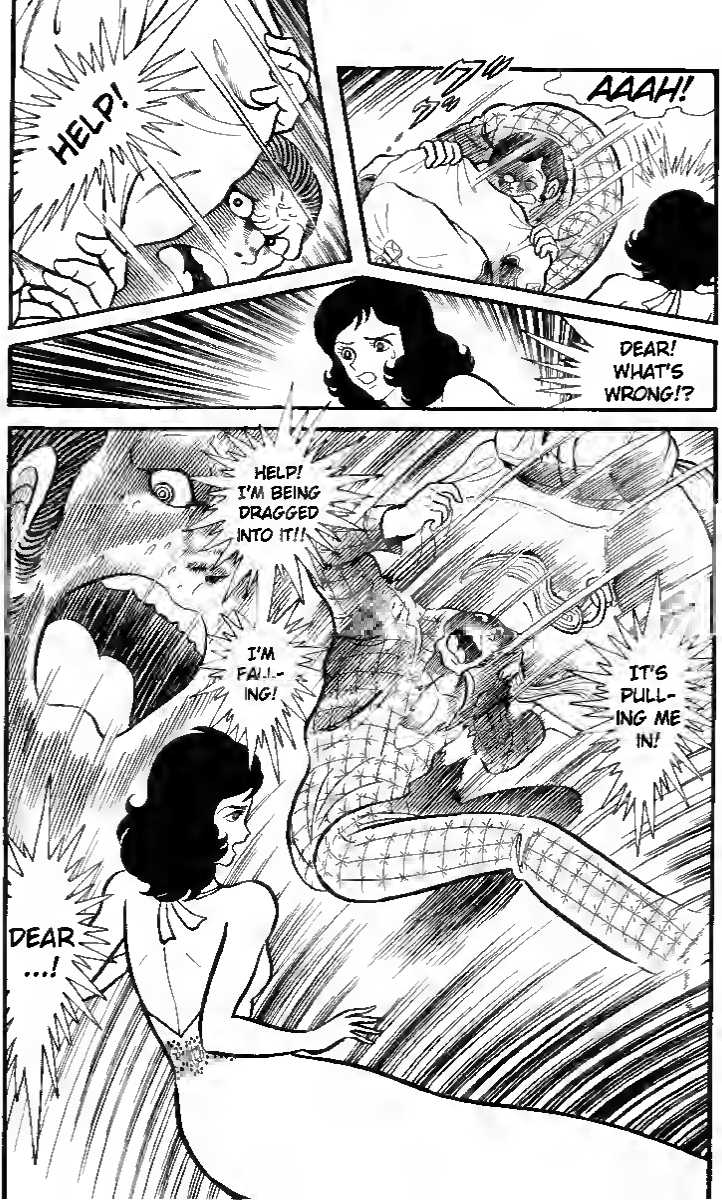

AAH
AAH
HAA
HAA
AAH
AAH
ヒュウウ

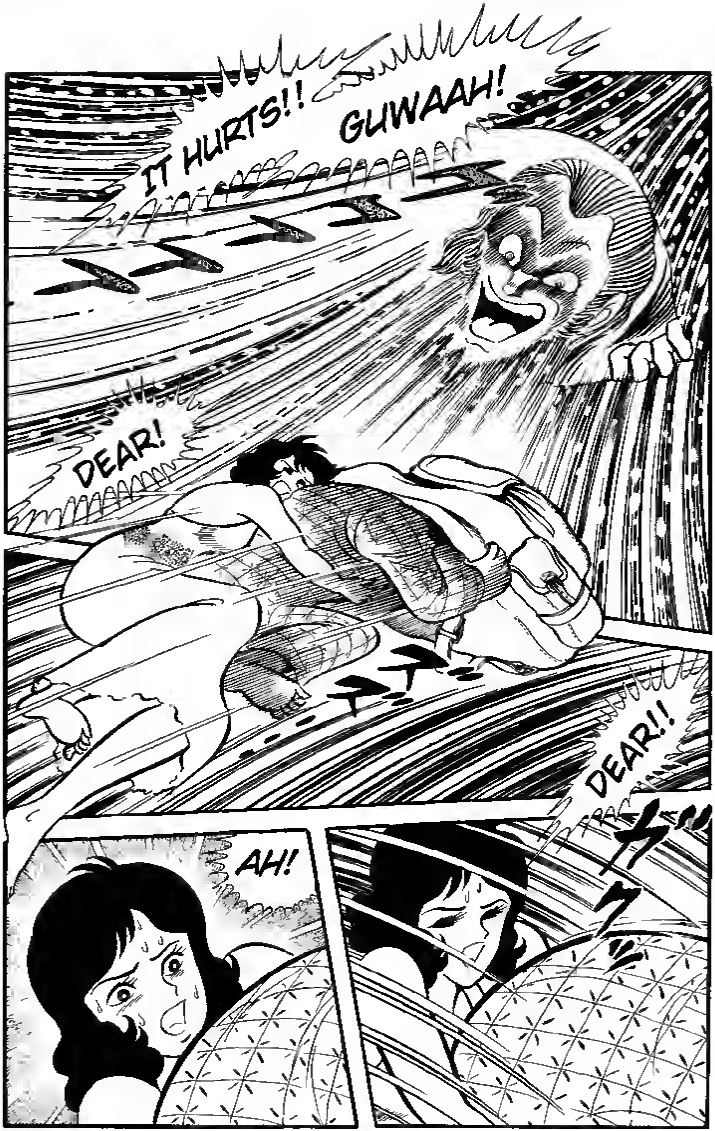
HAA
HAA
HAA
THAT'S ...
SHI!
TAKASE!
THEN ...!
THAT MOUNTAIN...
IS WHERE SHI HAD HIS ACCIDENT!

KYAAA!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
WHAT'S WRONG, MISA? YOU WERE SCREAMING ...
IT CAN'T BE!
YOU MURDERED SHI...!
D-DEAR ...!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE ...
RIGHT, DEAR?
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
IT WAS IN THERE ...
WHY ...?
BUT ...

WAS THERE EVIDENCE ...!?
UWAAH!
AAH... PLEASE FORGIVE ME...!
I WOULD ...
I'D ...
I'D DO ANYTHING FOR MISA...
THAT'S WHY...!


HELP!
AAAH!
DEAR! WHAT'S WRONG!?
HELP! I'M BEING DRAGGED INTO IT!!
I'M FALL-ING!
IT'S PULL-ING ME IN!
DEAR ...!


IT HURTS!!
GUWAAH!
DEAR!
DEAR!!
AH!

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AAH
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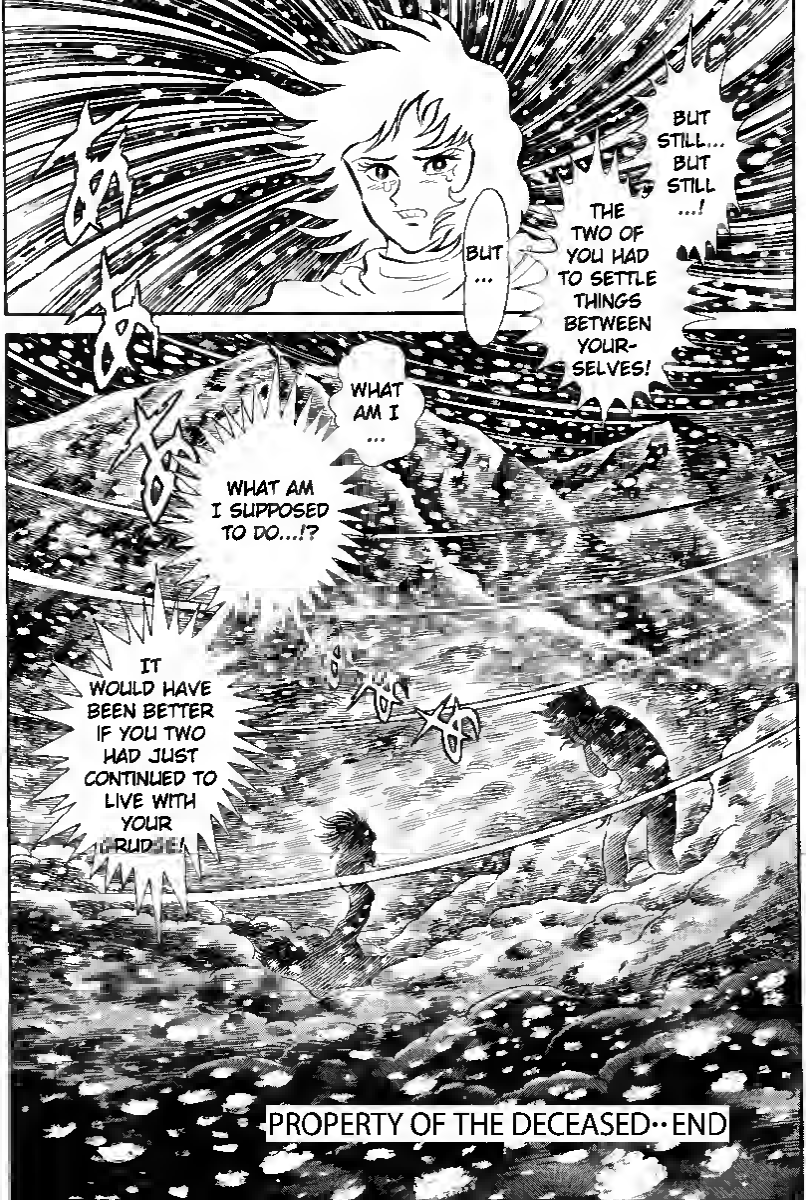
WHY ...!?
WHY ...?
WHY DID TAKASE HAVE TO KILL YOU TO TAKE ME AWAY FROM YOU...?
THEN ...
SHI, DID YOU KILL TAKASE TO GET REVENGE BY TAKING HIM AWAY FROM ME!?
I... I WAS HAPPY ENOUGH WITH TAKASE.
IT WASN'T LIKE WHEN I WAS YOUR LOVER, BUT HE GAVE ME A DIFFERENT KIND OF HAPPINESS.

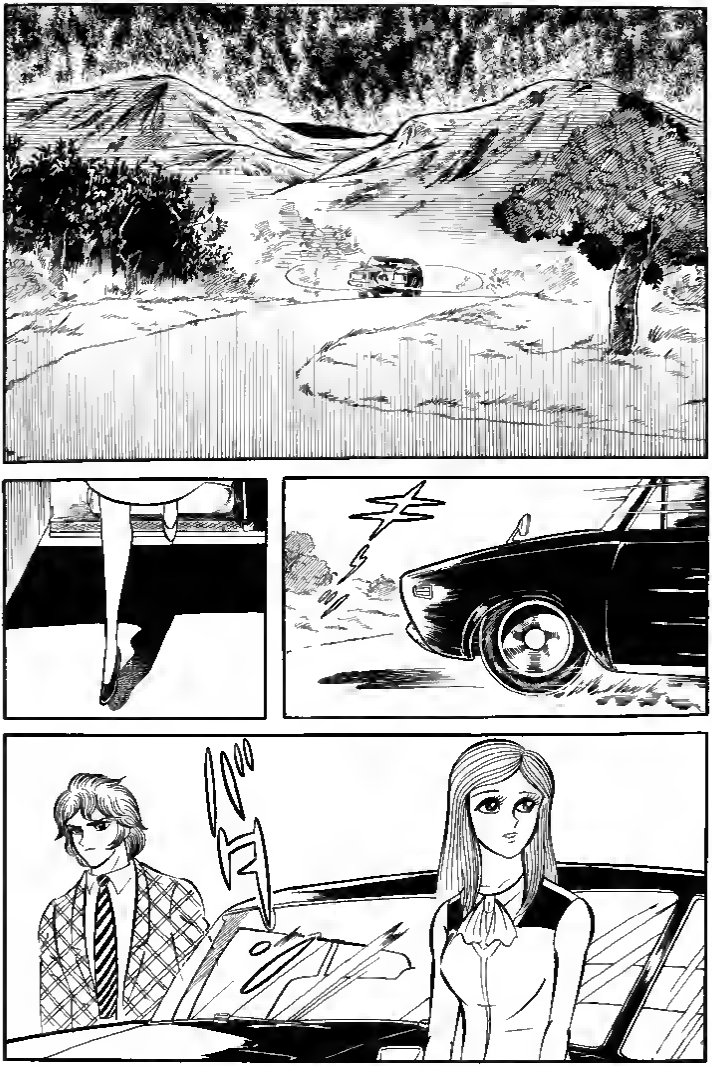

BUT STILL... BUT STILL ...!
THE TWO OF YOU HAD TO SETTLE THINGS BETWEEN YOUR-SELVES!
BUT ...
WHAT AM I ...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...!?
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU TWO HAD JUST CONTINUED TO LIVE WITH YOUR
PROPERTY OF THE DECEASED·· END

1979年作品

永井豪ホラー短編集

髑髏（どくろ）の館

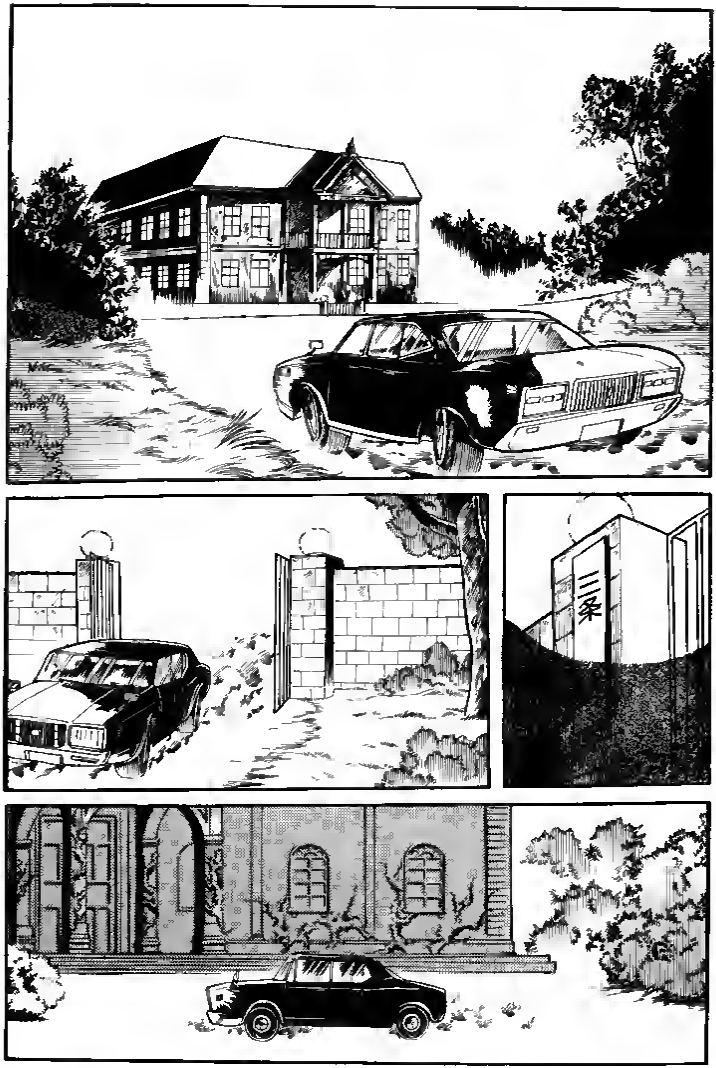
SKULL MANOR



LOOK, YOU CAN SEE OUR NEW HOUSE FROM HERE.
IT'S SO PRETTY!
I HOPE YOU WON'T REGERT COMING OUT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE LIKE THIS, KAORI.
I'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU.

IT'S ALL JUST LIKE A DREAM...
IT'S LIKE A DREAM.
THE TWO OF USE LIVING IN THIS HOUSE BY OURSELVES LIKE THIS...

I MET AOHIKO JUST HALF A YEAR AGO...
AND NOW I'VE BECOME HIS WIFE...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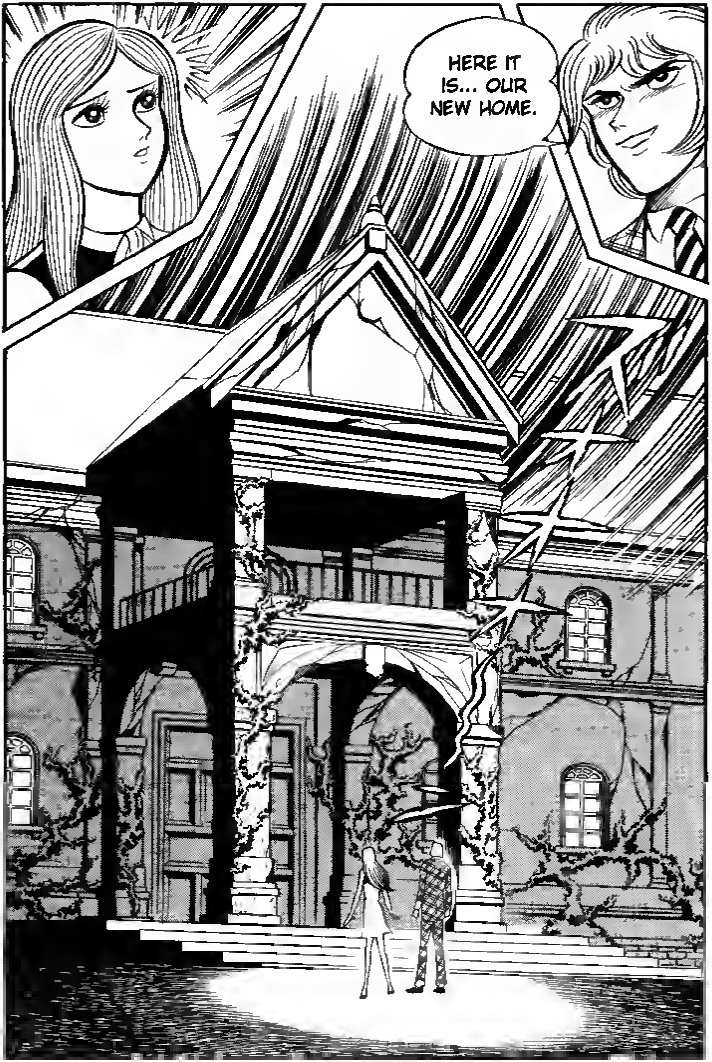
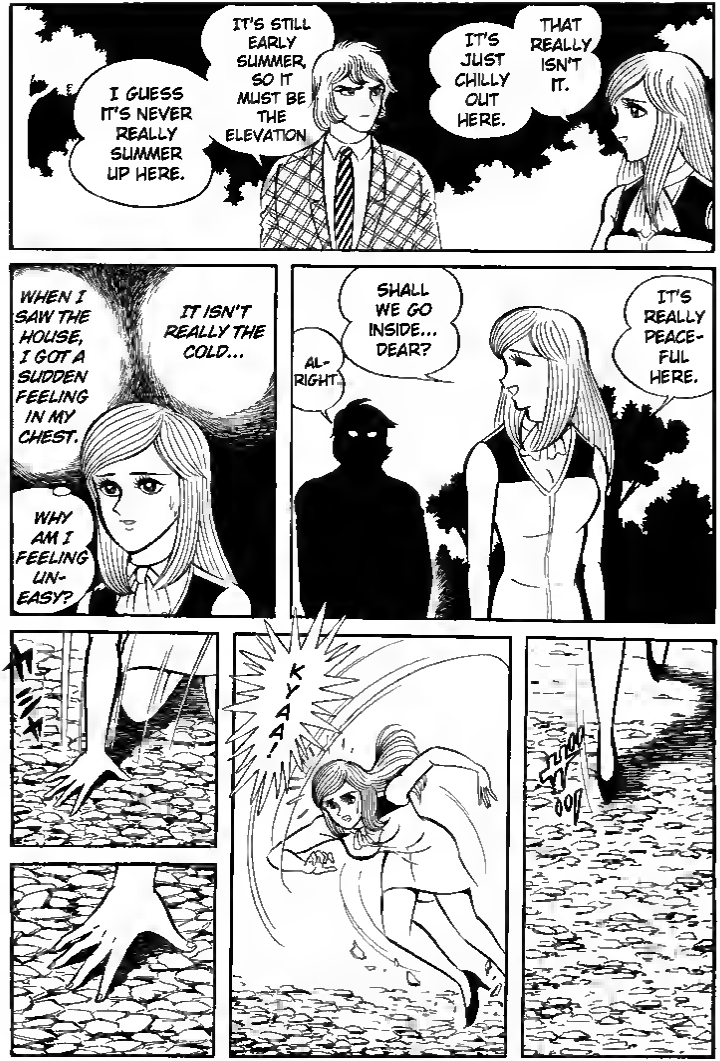
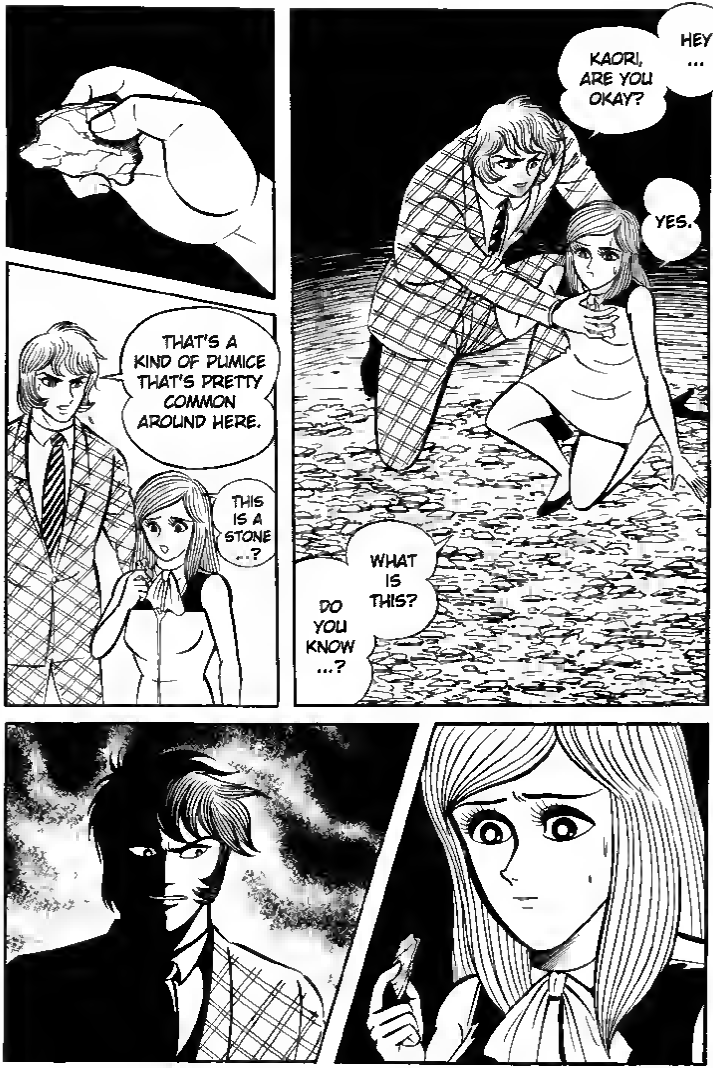

HERE IT IS... OUR NEW HOME.

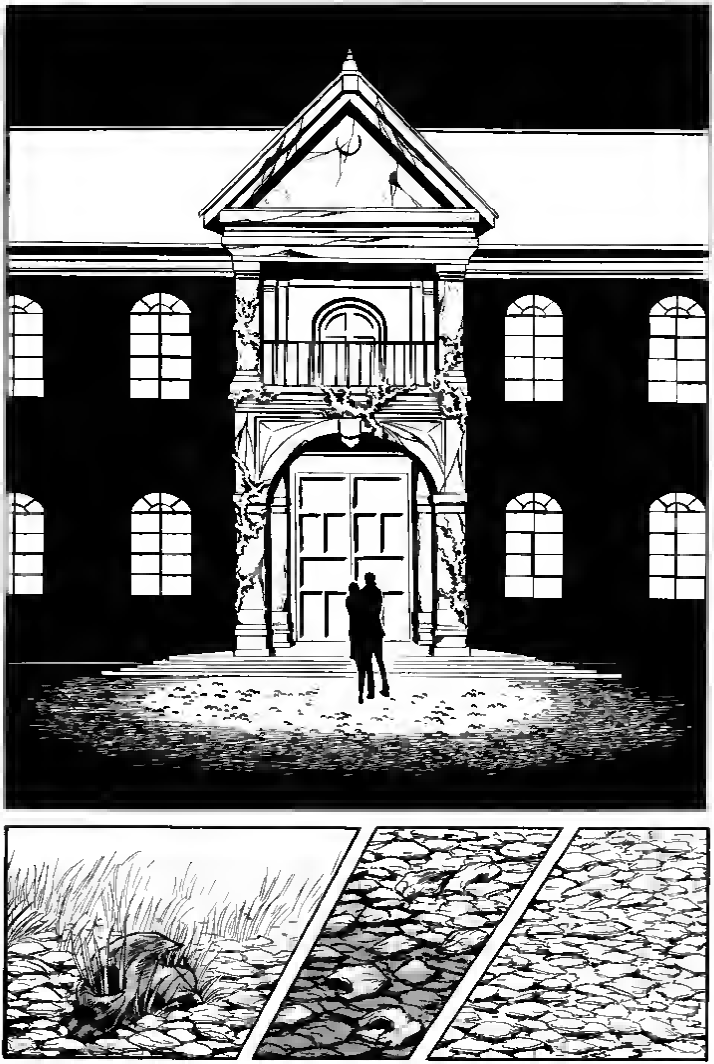
HM?
DO YOU DISLIKE THE HOUSE?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
AH, WELL ...
WHAT'S WRONG, KAORI?
HAHA... YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY HOW OLD THE HOUSE IS.
BUT THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN IN MY FAMILY, SO PLEASE DON'T HATE IT.
IT'S JUST A LITTLE COLD.


I GUESS IT'S NEVER REALLY SUMMER UP HERE.
IT'S STILL EARLY SUMMER, SO IT MUST BE THE ELEVATION
IT'S JUST CHILLY OUT HERE.
THAT REALLY ISN'T IT.
WHEN I SAW THE HOUSE, I GOT A SUDDEN FEELING IN MY CHEST.
IT ISN'T REALLY THE COLD...
WHY AM I FEELING UN-EASY?
AL-RIGHT.
SHALL WE GO INSIDE... DEAR?
IT'S REALLY PEACE-FUL HERE.
AIIIA
KYAA!
SLIDE IT OOF


HEY ...
KAORI, ARE YOU OKAY?
YES.
WHAT IS THIS? DO YOU KNOW ...?
THIS IS A STONE ..?
THAT'S A KIND OF PUMICE THAT'S PRETTY COMMON AROUND HERE.

NOOO!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THAT STONE SCARES ME...
THERE'S SOMETHING... OMINOUS ABOUT IT.
OMINOUS ...?
HAHA HA.

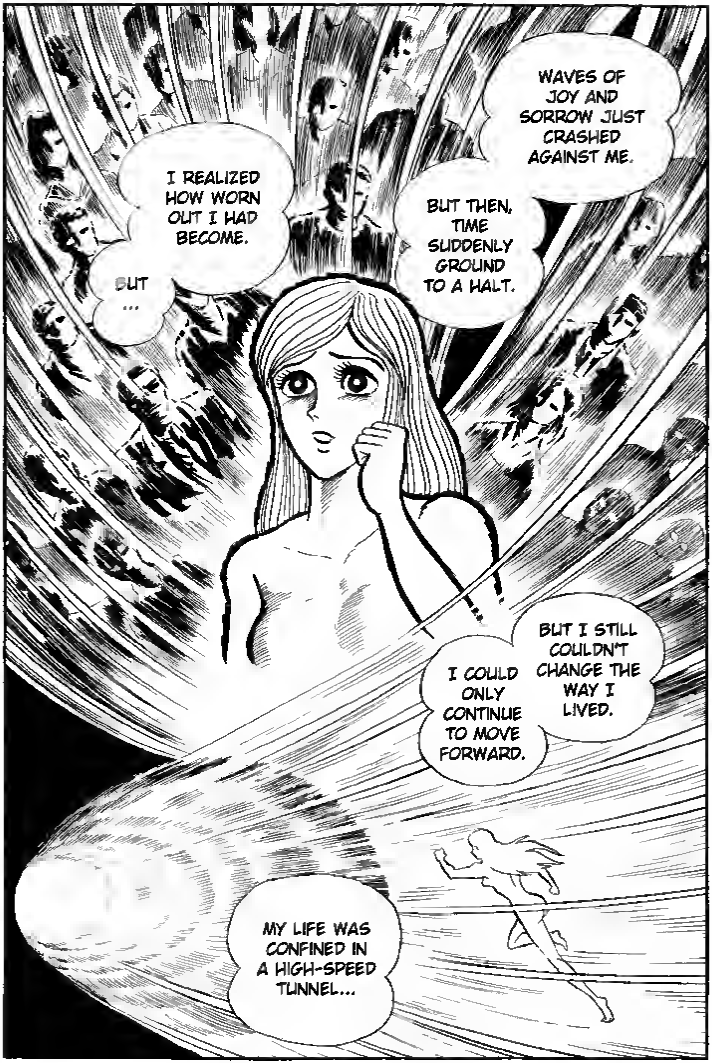
ARE YOU HOMESICK ALREADY ...?
HAHA, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE.
I...
I'M SORRY.
IT'S NOTHING AT ALL.
NO-THING ...
YEAH ...
IF YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, LET'S GO INSIDE.
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S NOTHING. I'M JUST FEELING A LITTLE NERVOUS.
I'M SORRY, DEAR...

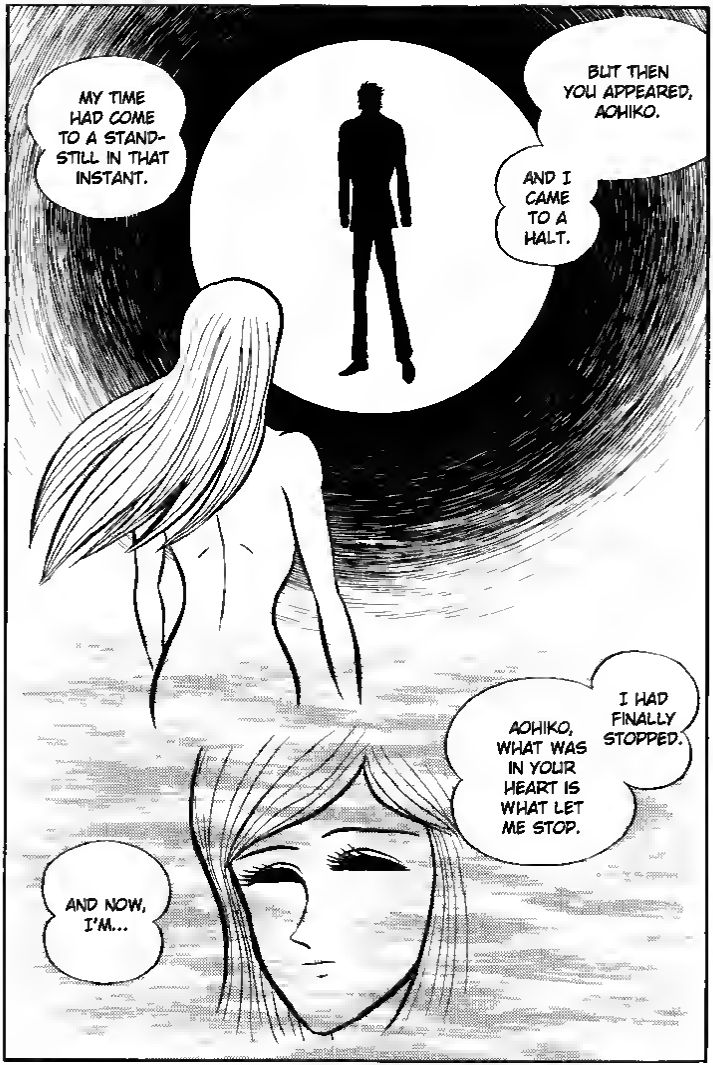


HM?
AOHIKO
...

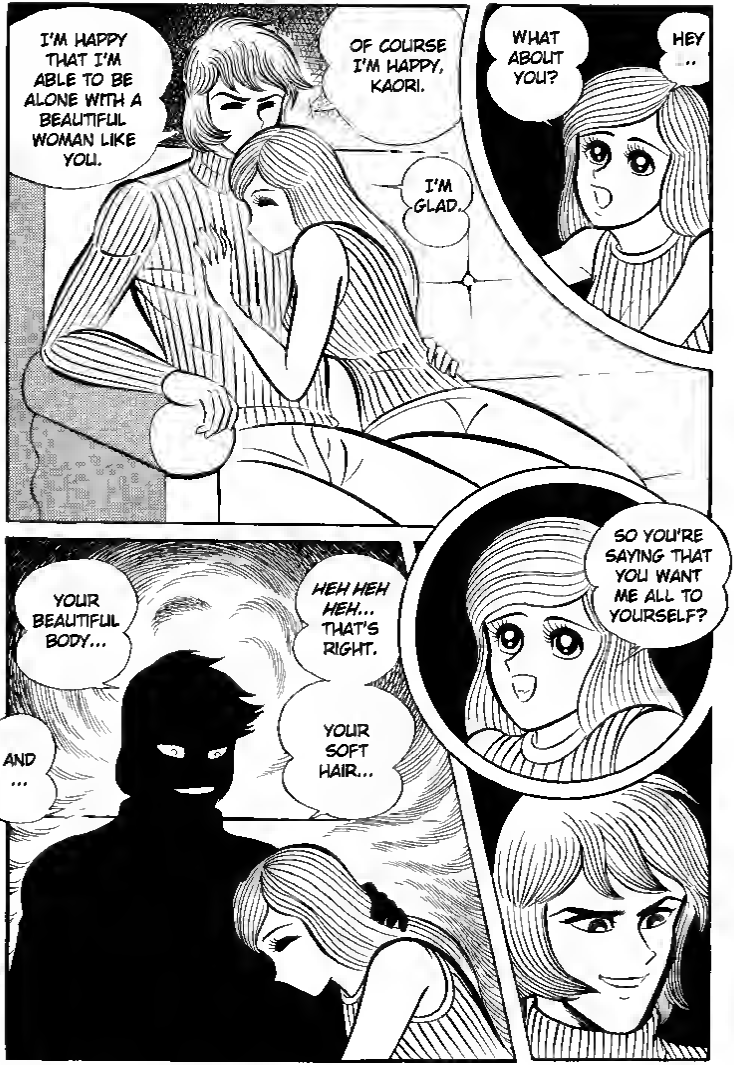
I'M SO HAPPY...
UNTIL NOW... I'VE NEVER REALLY FELT AT PEACE.
I JUST KEPT ON WALKING...
I WAS JUST WALKING, LOOKING FOR SOMETHING...

I THOUGHT THAT WAS LIFE.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS ALL THERE WAS TO IT.
TIME JUST SEEMED TO RUSH BY.
THERE WAS NO WAY TO STOP IT...


WAVES OF JOY AND SORROW JUST CRASHED AGAINST ME.
I REALIZED HOW WORN OUT I HAD BECOME.
BUT THEN, TIME SUDDENLY GROUND TO A HALT.
BUT ...
BUT I STILL COULDN'T CHANGE THE WAY I LIVED.
I COULD ONLY CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD.
MY LIFE WAS CONFINED IN A HIGH-SPEED TUNNEL...


MY TIME HAD COME TO A STAND-STILL IN THAT INSTANT.
BUT THEN YOU APPEARED, AOHIKO.
AND I CAME TO A HALT.
AOHIKO, WHAT WAS IN YOUR HEART IS WHAT LET ME STOP.
I HAD FINALLY STOPPED.
AND NOW, I'M...

I WAS FINALLY AT PEACE...
I FEEL LIKE TIME ITSELF HAS STOPPED IN THIS HOUSE.
I'M SO HAPPY...


I'M HAPPY THAT I'M ABLE TO BE ALONE WITH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIKE YOU.
OF COURSE I'M HAPPY, KAORI.
I'M GLAD.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HEY ...
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU WANT ME ALL TO YOURSELF?
YOUR BEAUTIFUL BODY...
HEH HEH HEH... THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR SOFT HAIR...
AND ...

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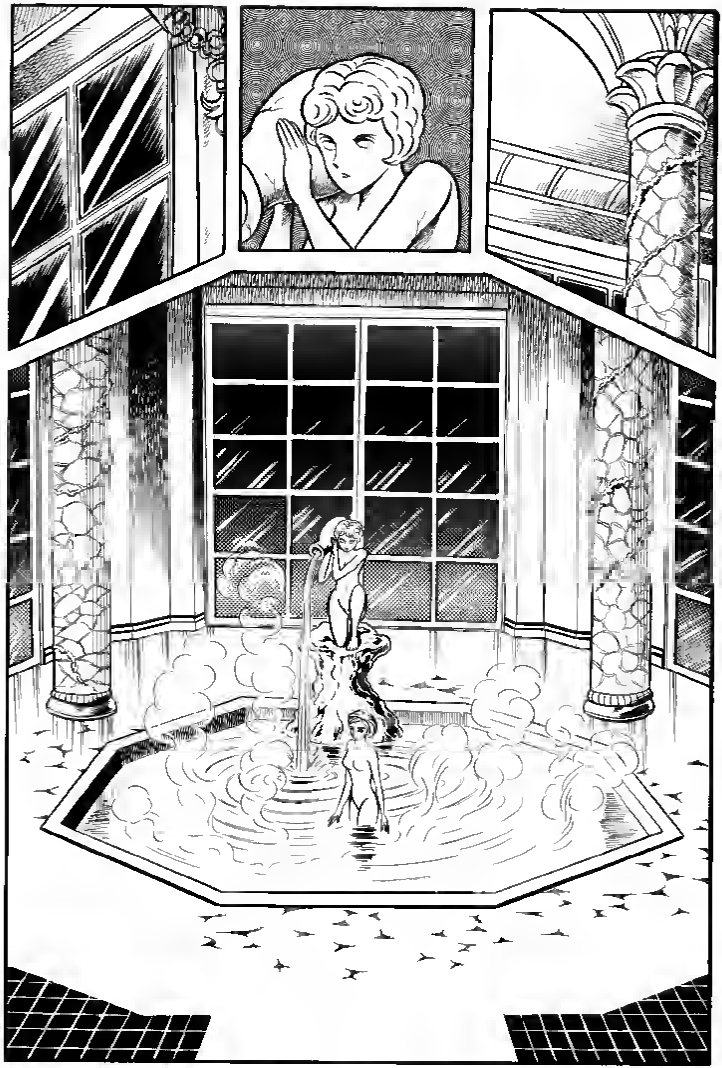
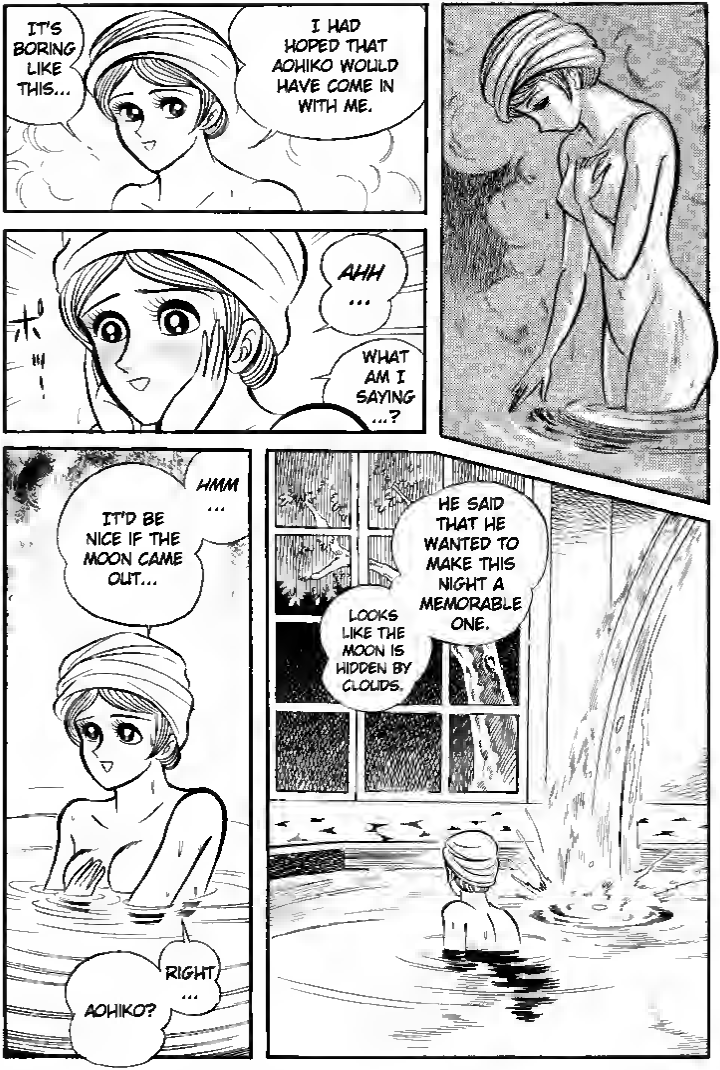
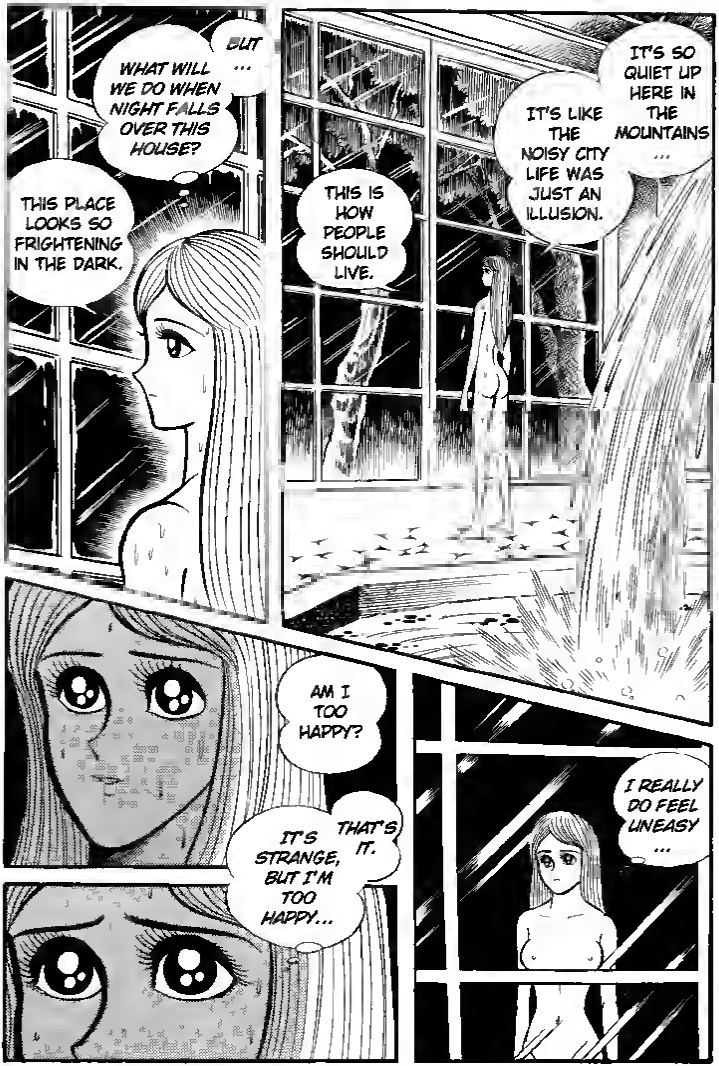
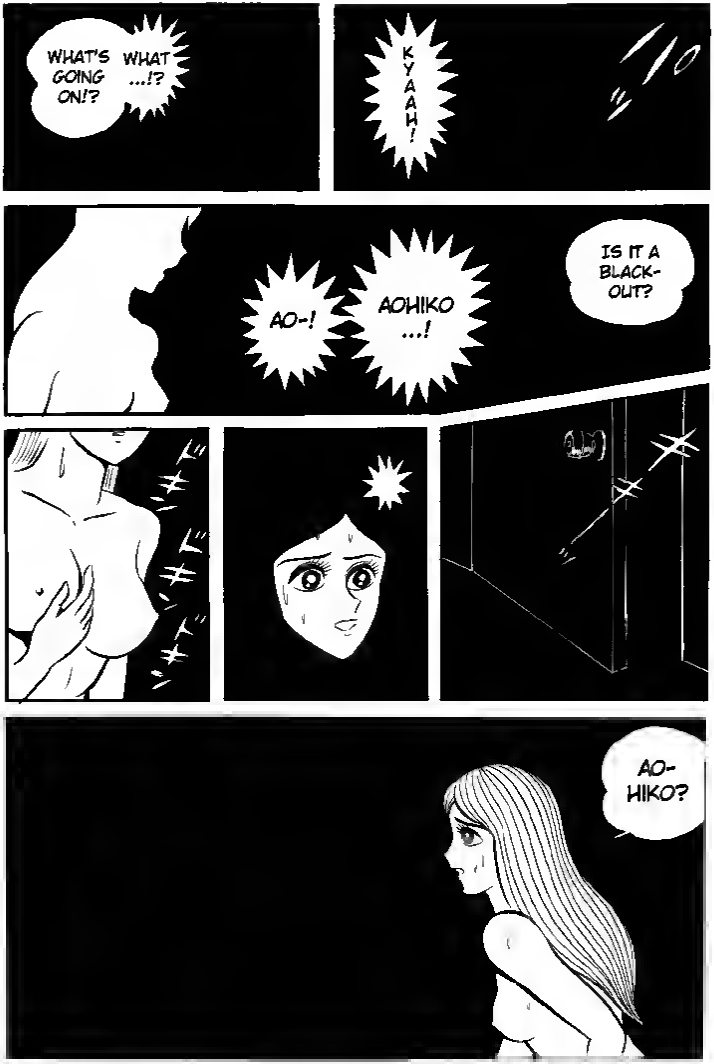
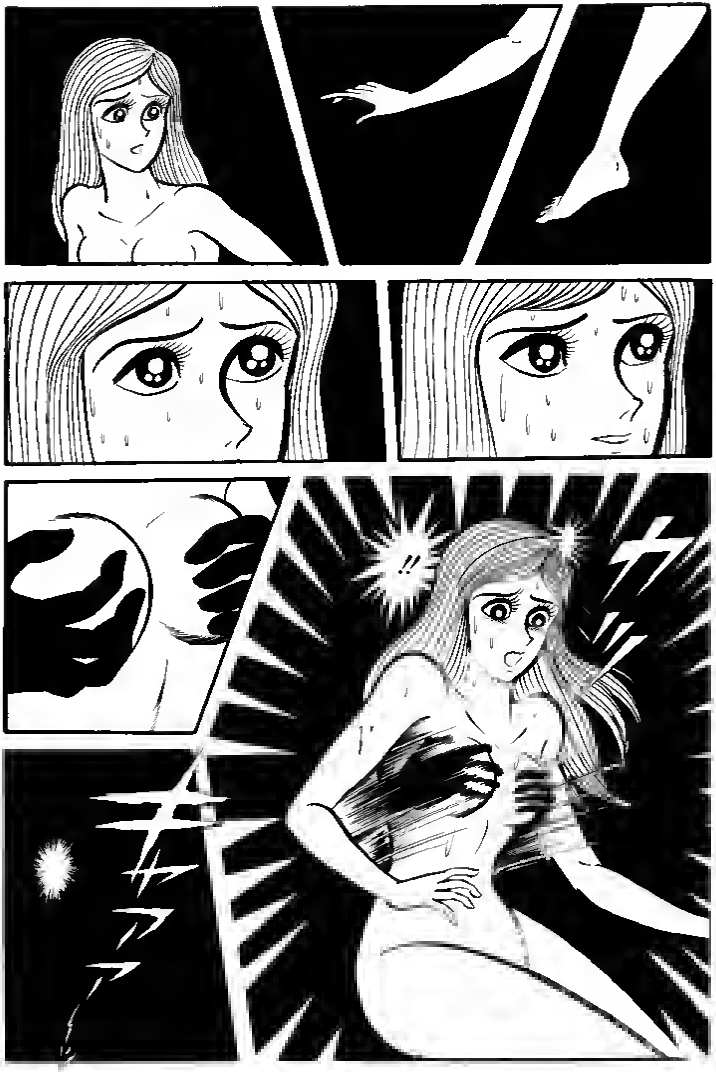



IT'S BORING LIKE THIS...
I HAD HOPED THAT AOHIKO WOULD HAVE COME IN WITH ME.
AHH ...
WHAT AM I SAYING ...?
HMM ...
IT'D BE NICE IF THE MOON CAME OUT...
RIGHT ...
AOHIKO?
LOOKS LIKE THE MOON IS HIDDEN BY CLOUDS.
HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE THIS NIGHT A MEMORABLE ONE.


BUT ...
WHAT WILL WE DO WHEN NIGHT FALLS OVER THIS HOUSE?
THIS PLACE LOOKS SO FRIGHTENING IN THE DARK.
IT'S SO QUIET UP HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS ...
IT'S LIKE THE NOISY CITY LIFE WAS JUST AN ILLUSION.
THIS IS HOW PEOPLE SHOULD LIVE.
I REALLY DO FEEL UNEASY ...
AM I TOO HAPPY?
THAT'S IT.
IT'S STRANGE, BUT I'M TOO HAPPY...


WHAT'S GOING ON!?
WHAT ...!?
KYAAH!
IS IT A BLACK-OUT?
AO-!
AOHIKO ...!
AO-HIKO?

AO-HIKO? IS THAT YOU?
WHO ...!?
WHO'S THERE !?
HEY ... IT'S YOU, RIGHT? AOHIKO!?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NOOO!
HELP ME!
KYAAH!
SOMEONE HELP ME...!
AO-HIKO ...!

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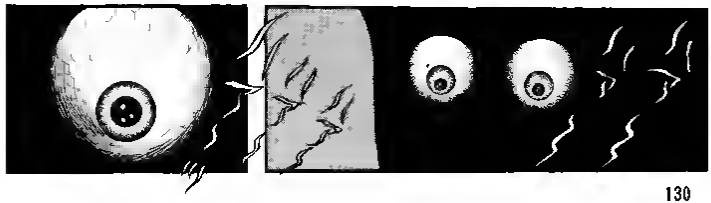

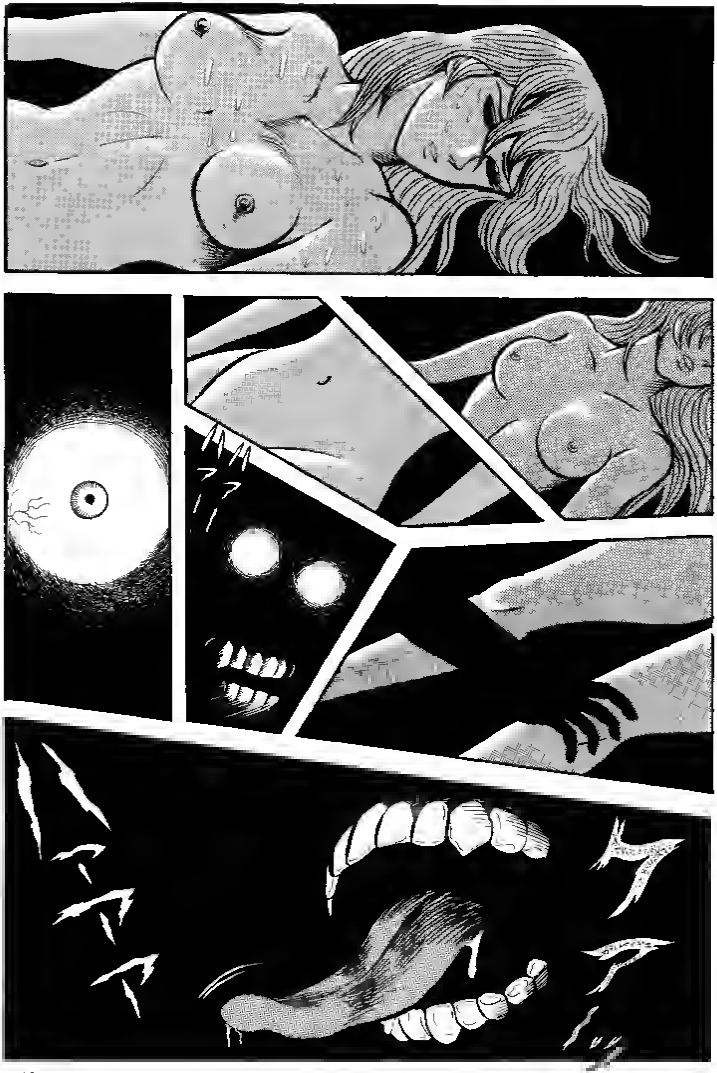

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ピチャ ピチャ
OH …
OHH …
AH-! AHH …
ピチャ ピチャ

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KYAAH!
AHH!

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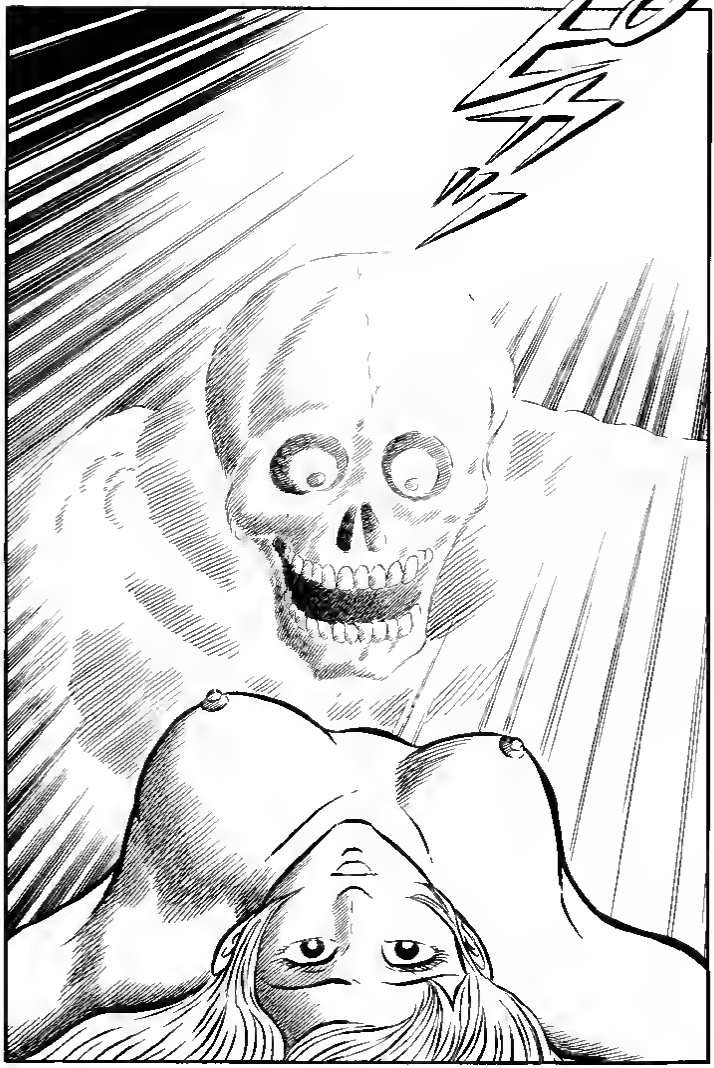
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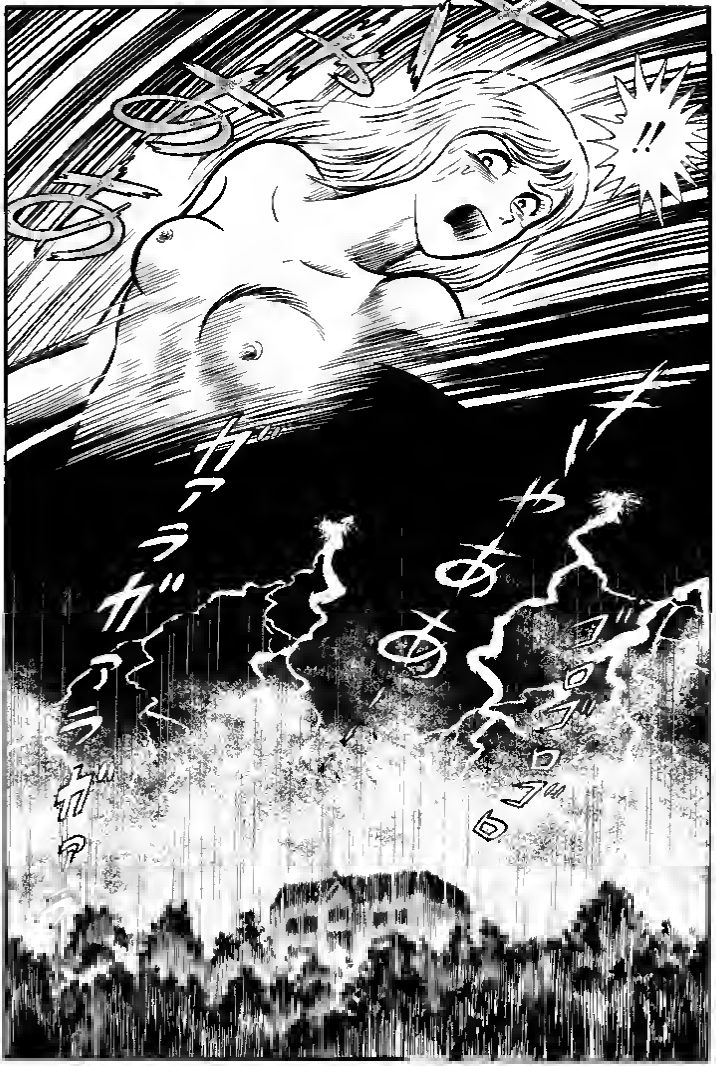
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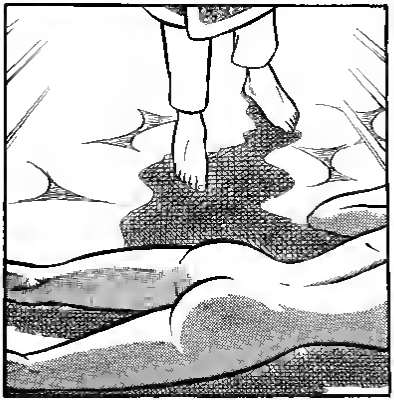

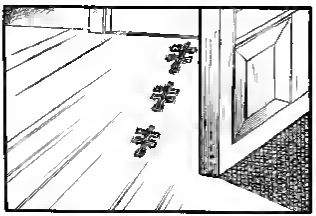

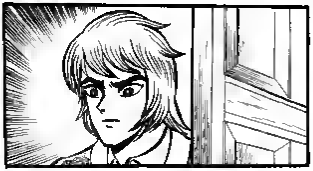

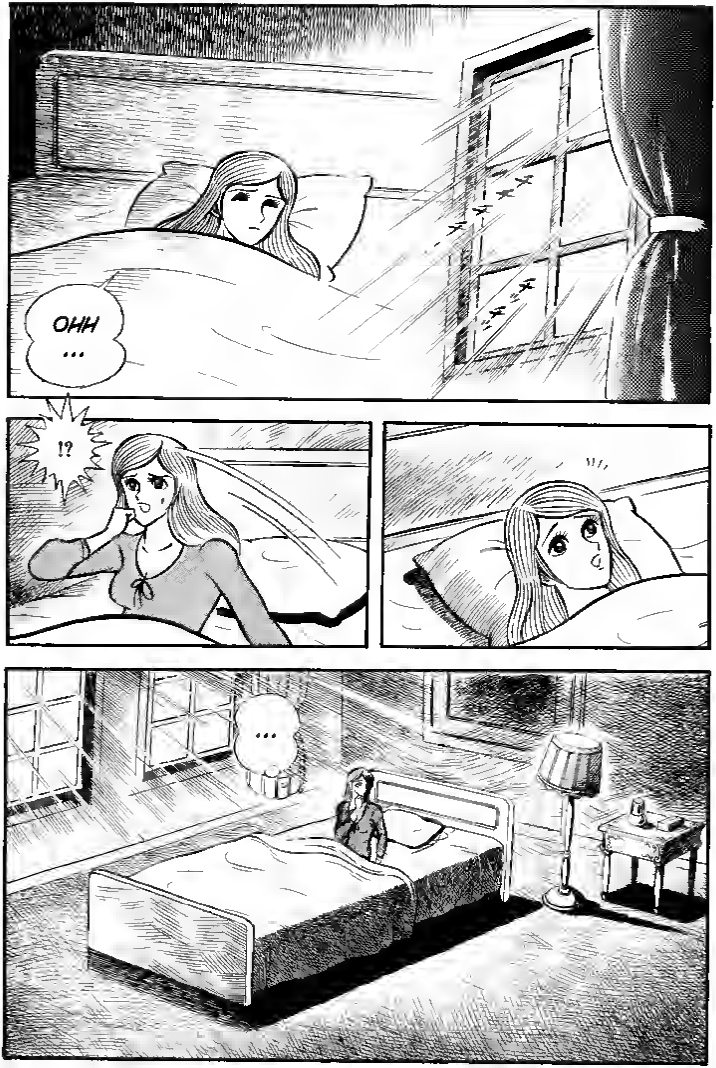
OHH
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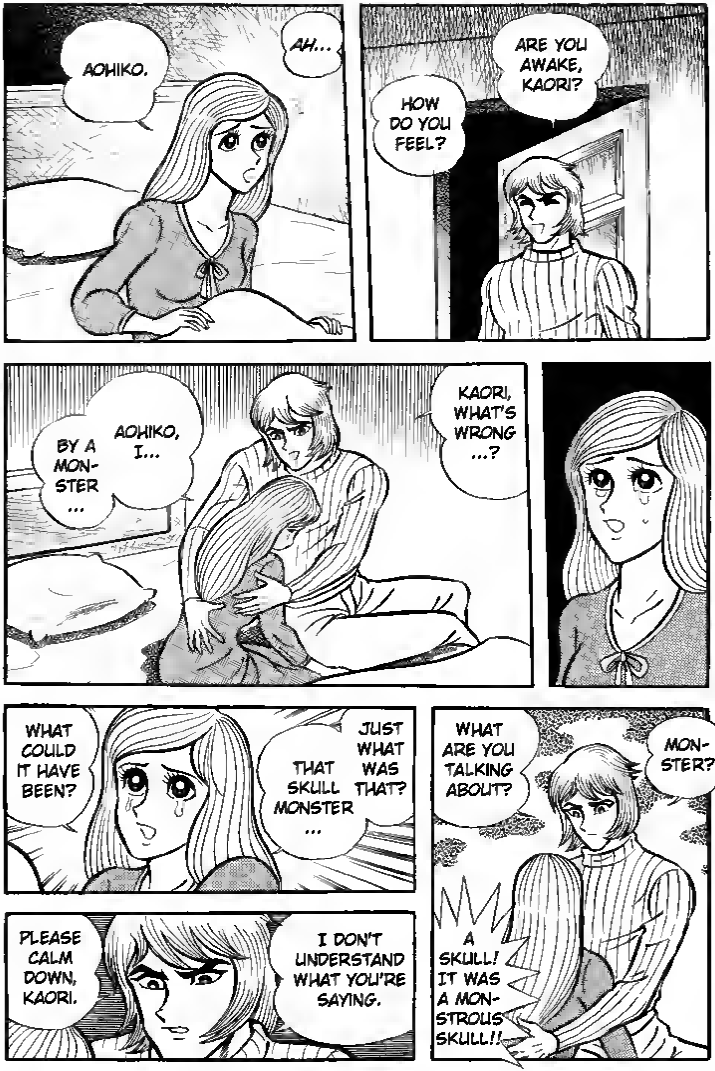
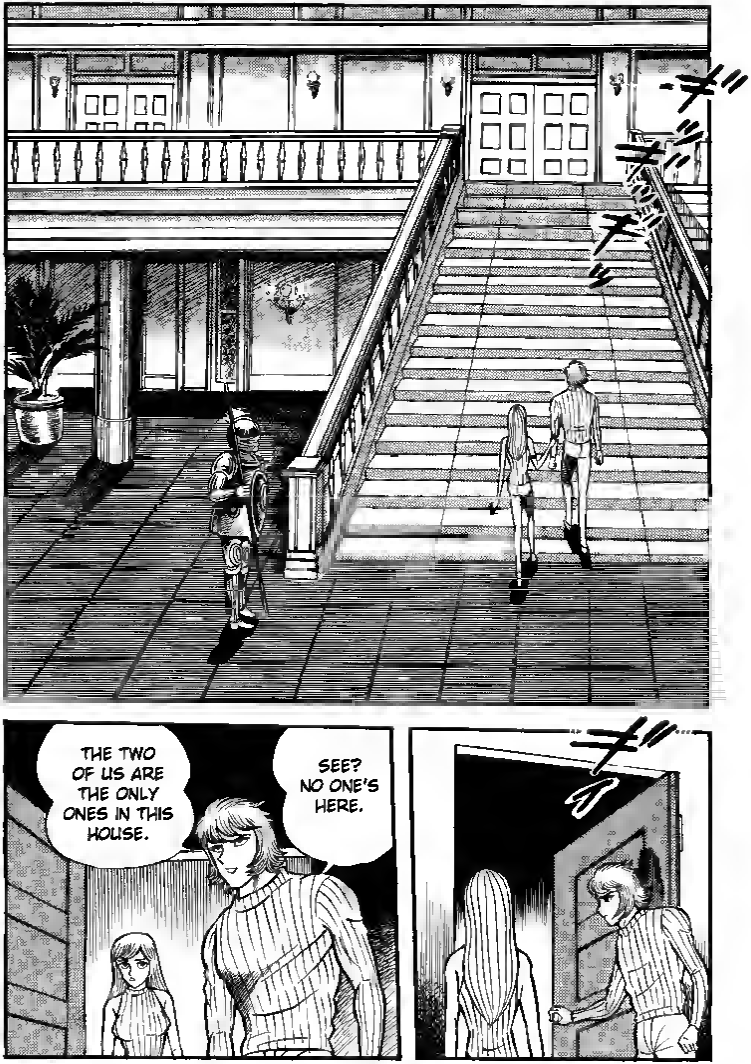
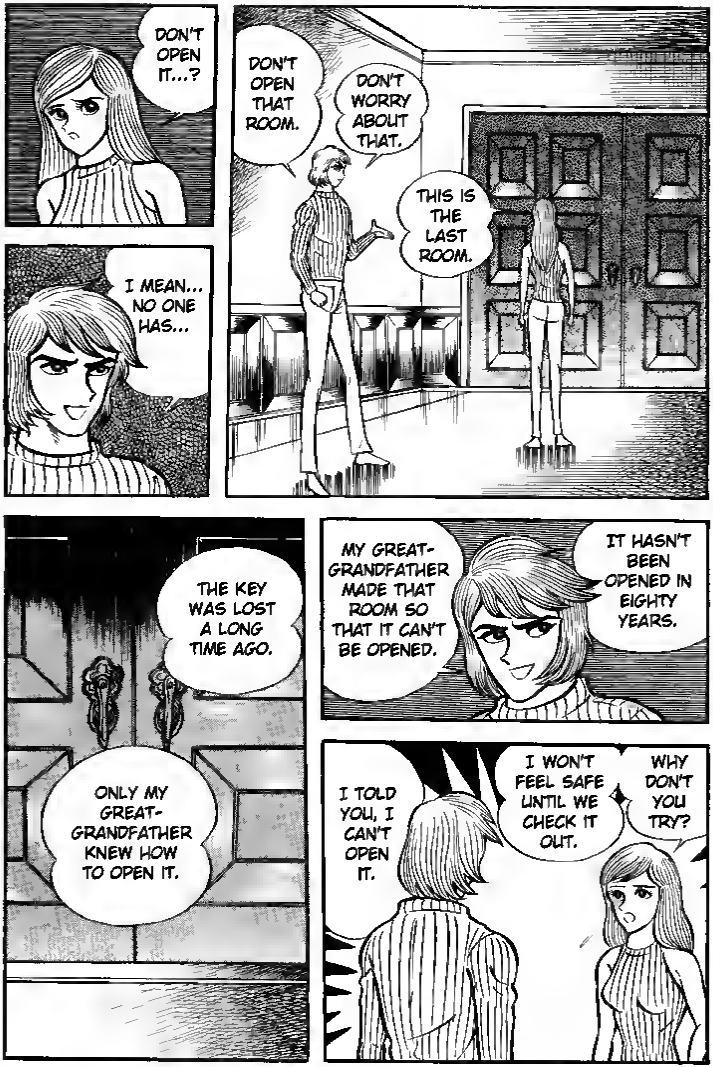
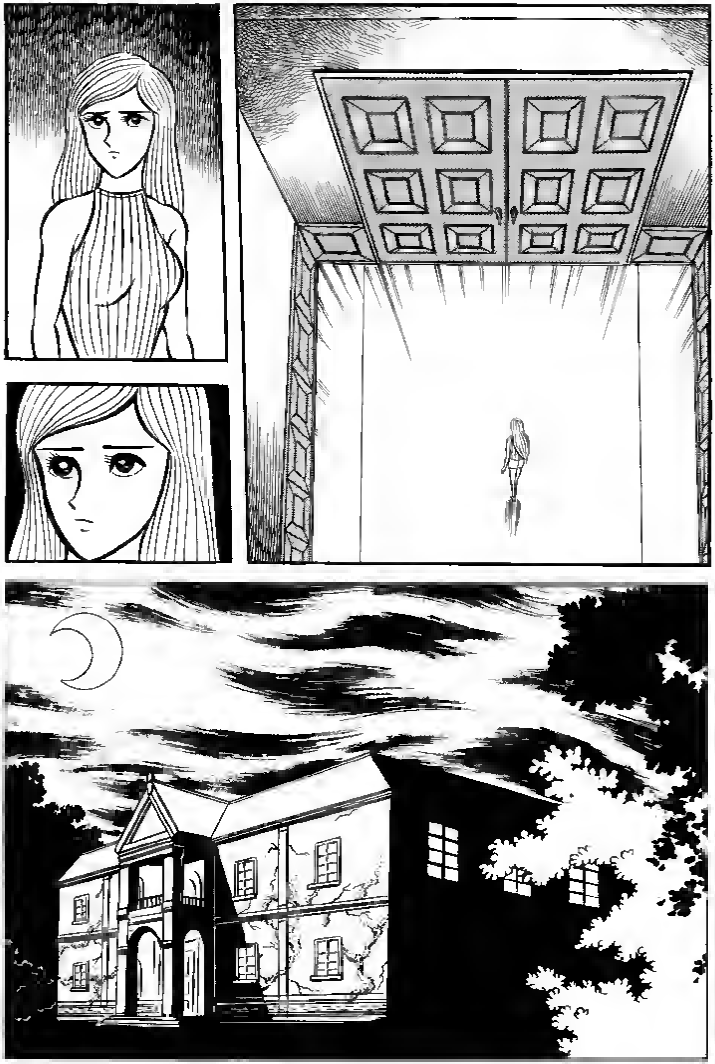

AOHIKO.
AH...
ARE YOU AWAKE, KAORI?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
KAORI, WHAT'S WRONG ...?
AOHIKO, I...
BY A MON-STER ...
WHAT COULD IT HAVE BEEN?
THAT SKULL MONSTER ...
JUST WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MON-STER?
A SKULL! IT WAS A MON-STROUS SKULL!!
PLEASE CALM DOWN, KAORI.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

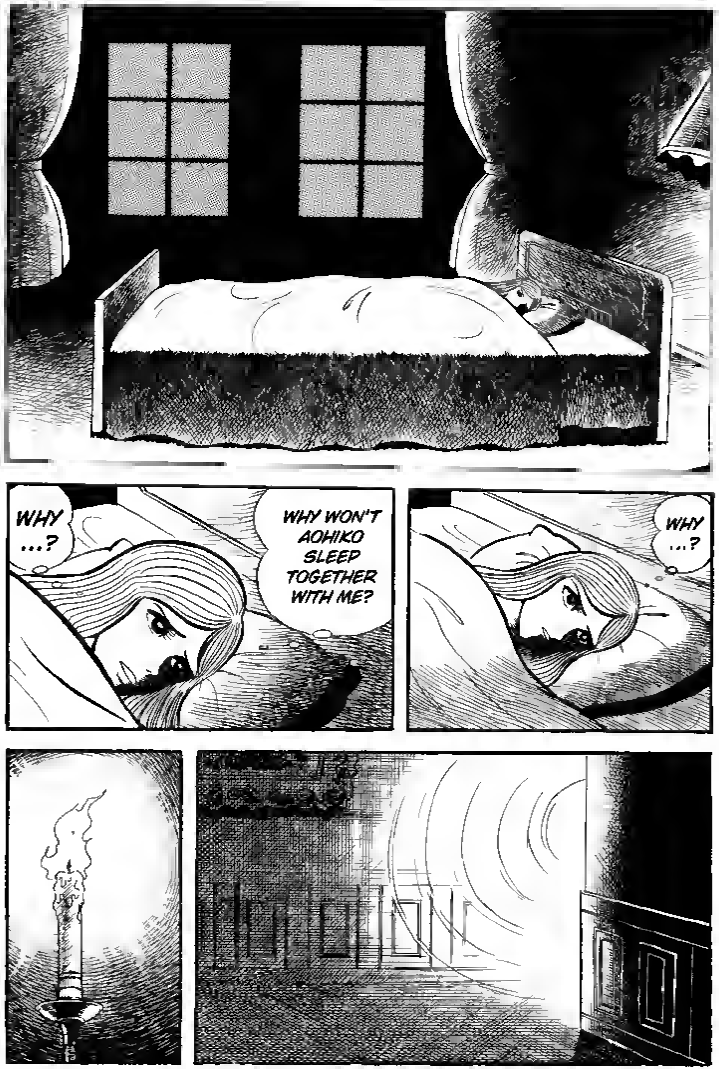
MY GRAND-FATHER KEPT ADDING ADDITIONS TO THE HOUSE AS A HOBBY, SO IT'S A BIT TOO LONELY FOR JUST TWO PEOPLE.
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE.
JUST AS I THOUGHT, WE'RE THE ONLY ONES IN THIS HOUSE.
A LOT OF PEOPLE LIVED HERE IN MY GRANDFATHER'S TIME.
YESTER-DAY...
ARE WE REALLY THE ONLY ONES HERE?
PROBABLY BECAUSE THIS HOUSE WAS LEFT BY MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER.
IT BECAME ISOLATED LIKE THIS AFTER MY FATHER'S BUSINESS FAILED.
WE SOLD A LOT OF LAND, BUT THIS HOUSE IS STILL LEFT.

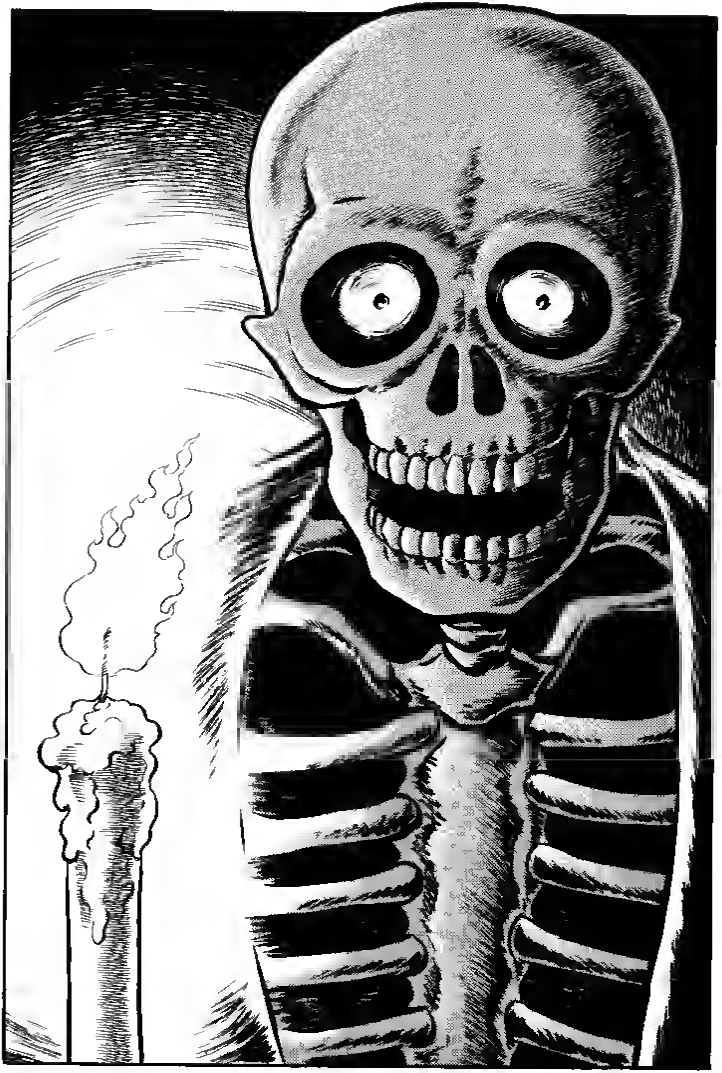
WAS THAT A DREAM?
DREAM ...?
YOU KEEP MENTIONING A MONSTER. WHAT KIND OF BAD DREAM DID YOU HAVE?
COULD IT REALLY HAVE BEEN A DREAM?

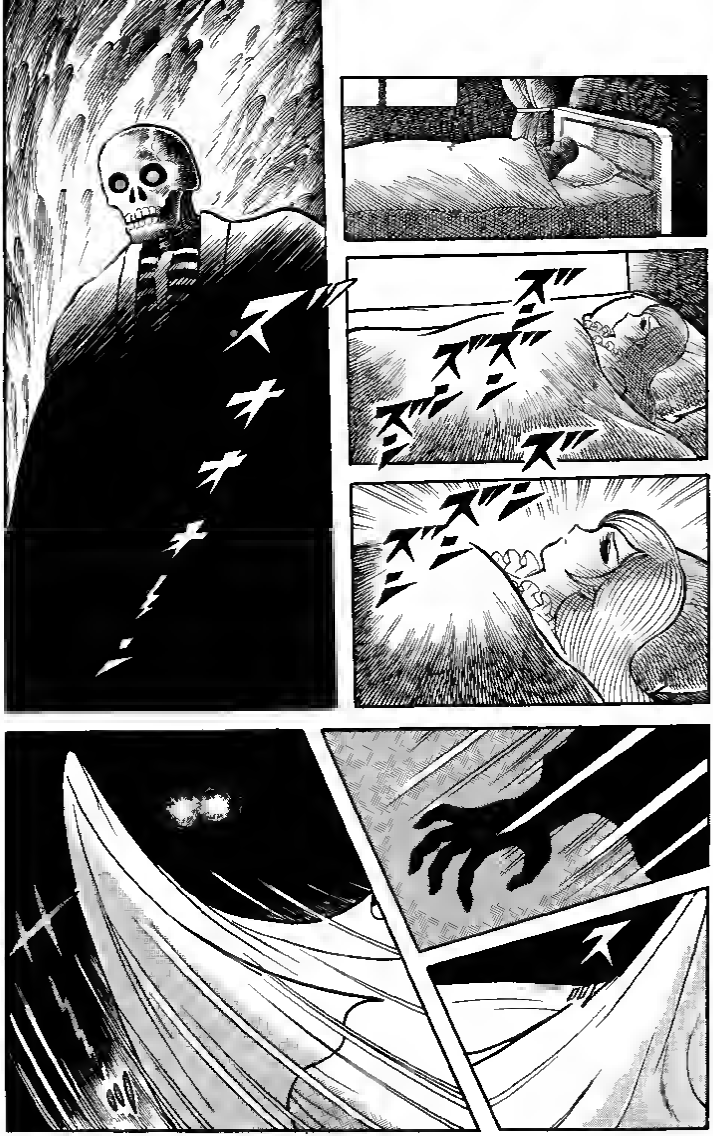

THE TWO OF US ARE THE ONLY ONES IN THIS HOUSE.
SEE? NO ONE'S HERE.

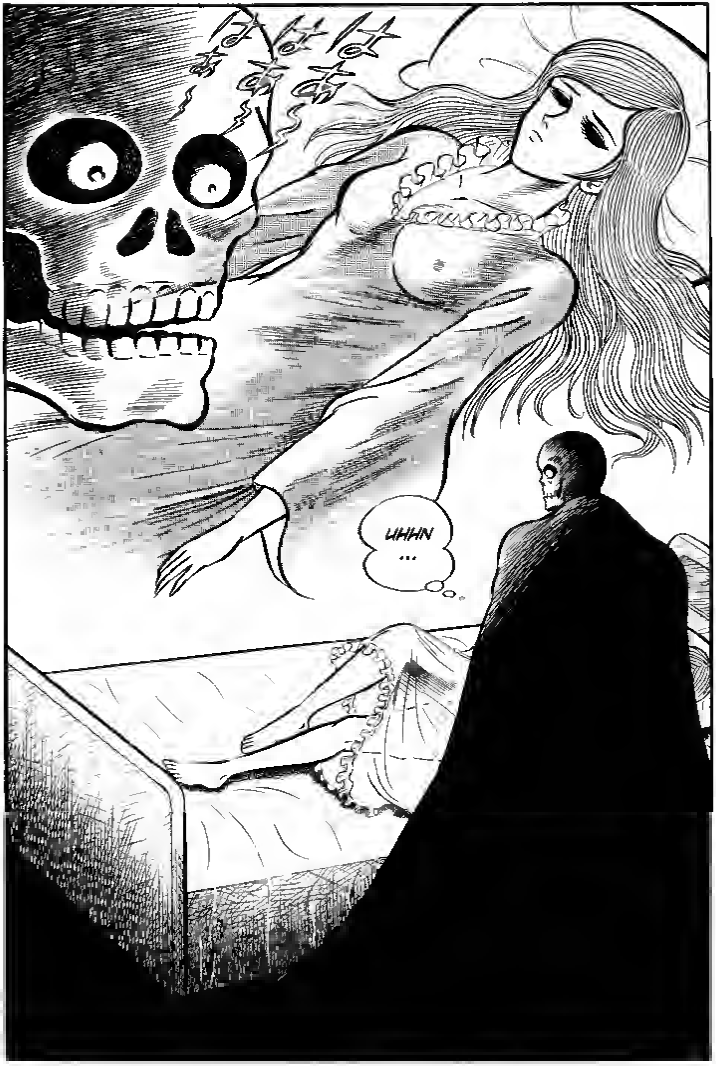

DON'T OPEN IT...?
I MEAN... NO ONE HAS...
DON'T OPEN THAT ROOM.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
THIS IS THE LAST ROOM.
THE KEY WAS LOST A LONG TIME AGO.
ONLY MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER KNEW HOW TO OPEN IT.
MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER MADE THAT ROOM SO THAT IT CAN'T BE OPENED.
IT HASN'T BEEN OPENED IN EIGHTY YEARS.
I TOLD YOU, I CAN'T OPEN IT.
I WON'T FEEL SAFE UNTIL WE CHECK IT OUT.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY?

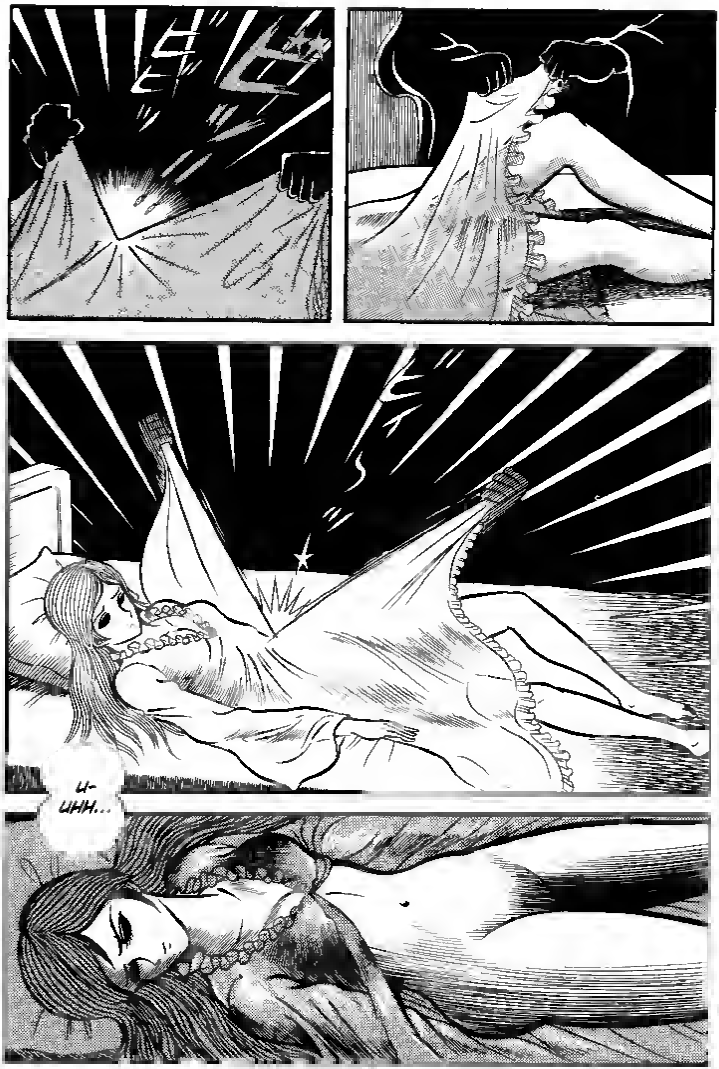



WHY ...?
WHY WON'T AOHIKO SLEEP TOGETHER WITH ME?
WHY ...?



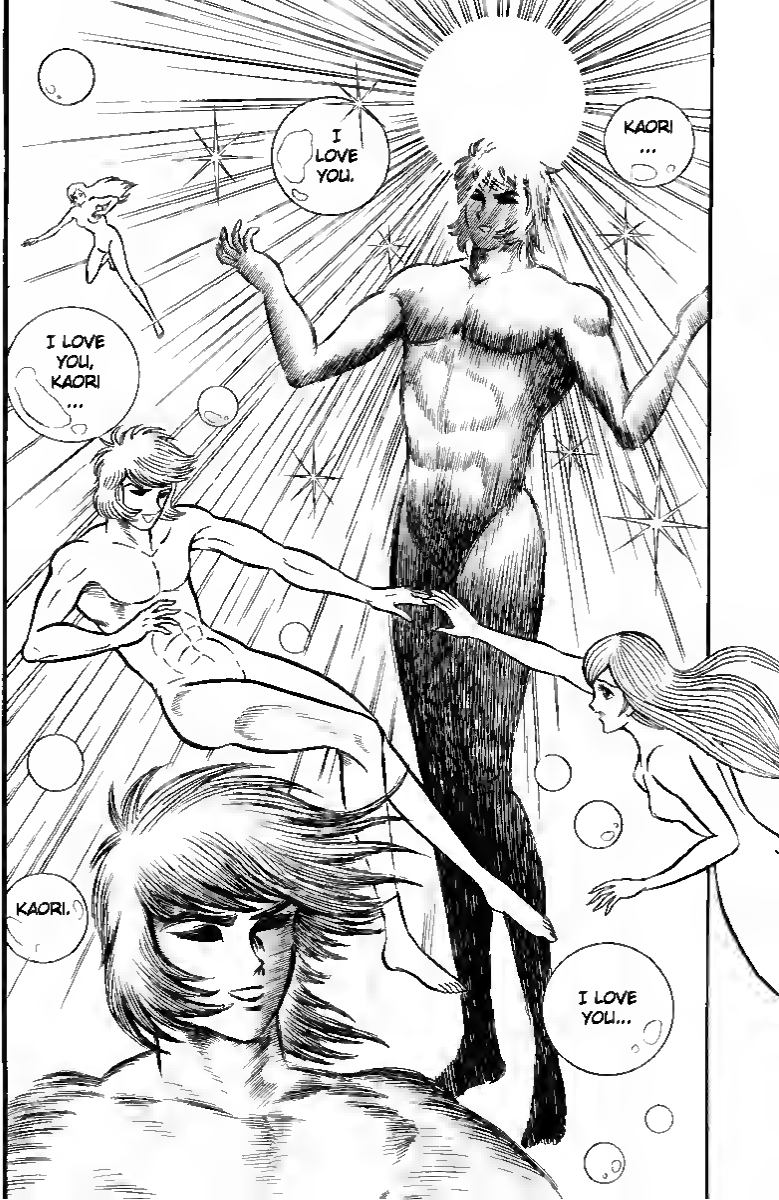



UHHH
...

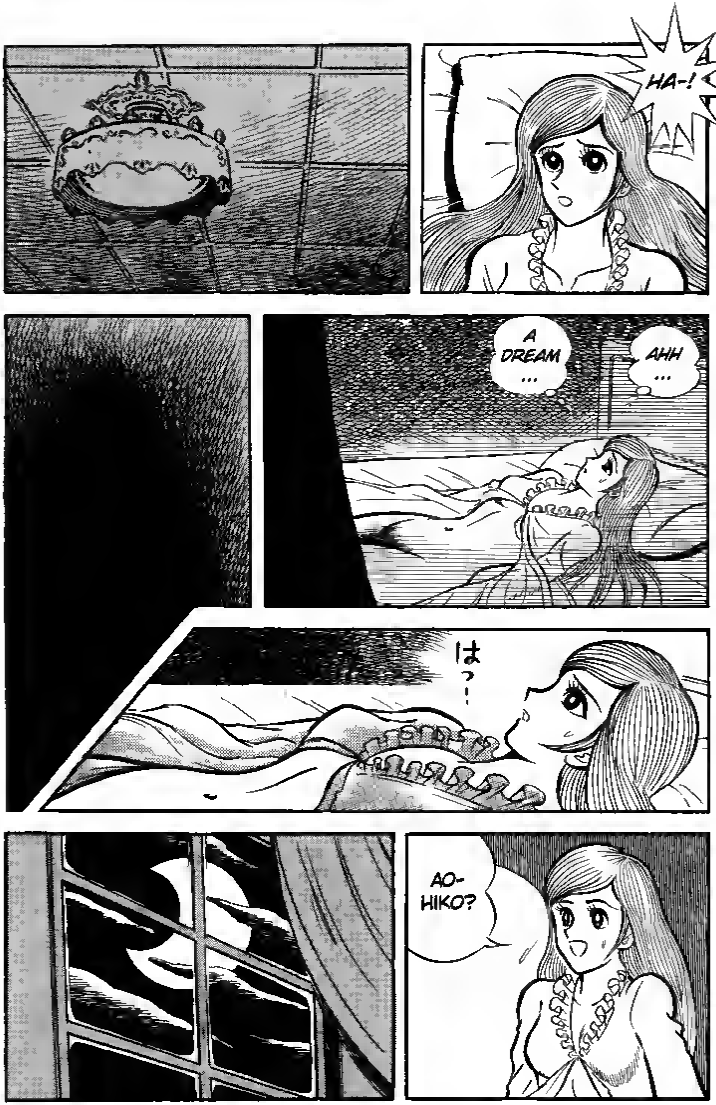

U-UHH...

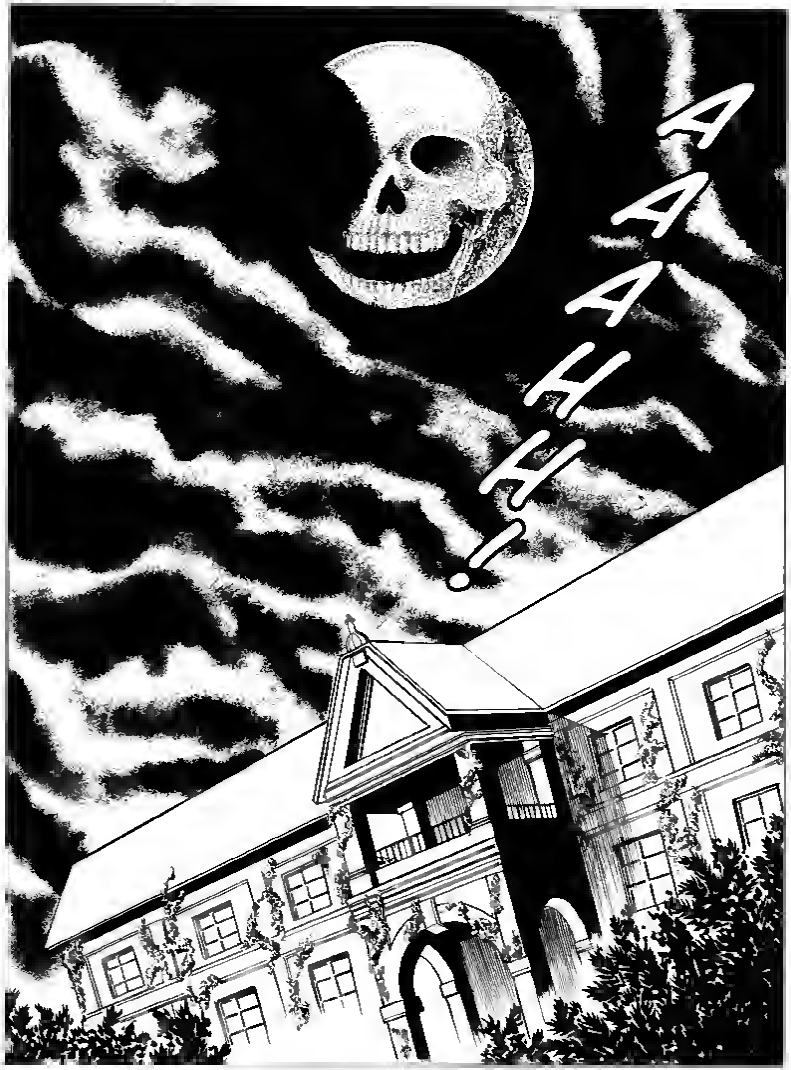
AH, AOHIKO ...
UHH ...
OHH ...
HAA... HAA...
AOHIKO ...
UHHN ...

AOHIKO ...?
DO YOU HATE ME ...?
AM I NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
AM I NOT PRETTY ENOUGH?
IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG, TELL ME...
AM I NOT CUTE ...?
DO YOU HATE ME?
I'LL FIX IT... I'LL FIX MY WHOLE LIFE FOR YOU.
WHAT KIND OF WOMAN DO YOU LIKE, AOHIKO?
PLEASE DON'T HATE ME
WHY ...?
DON'T DISLIKE ME...
I LOVE YOU, AOHIKO...
PLEASE, LOVE ME...
AOHIKO ...
HOLD ME... EMBRACE ME...


I LOVE YOU.
KAORI ...
I LOVE YOU, KAORI ...
KAORI.
I LOVE YOU...

K...
KAORI ...
KYAAH!


HA-!
A DREAM ...
AHH ...
はっ!
AO-HIKO?


AAAHH!

KYAAAHH!
NOO!
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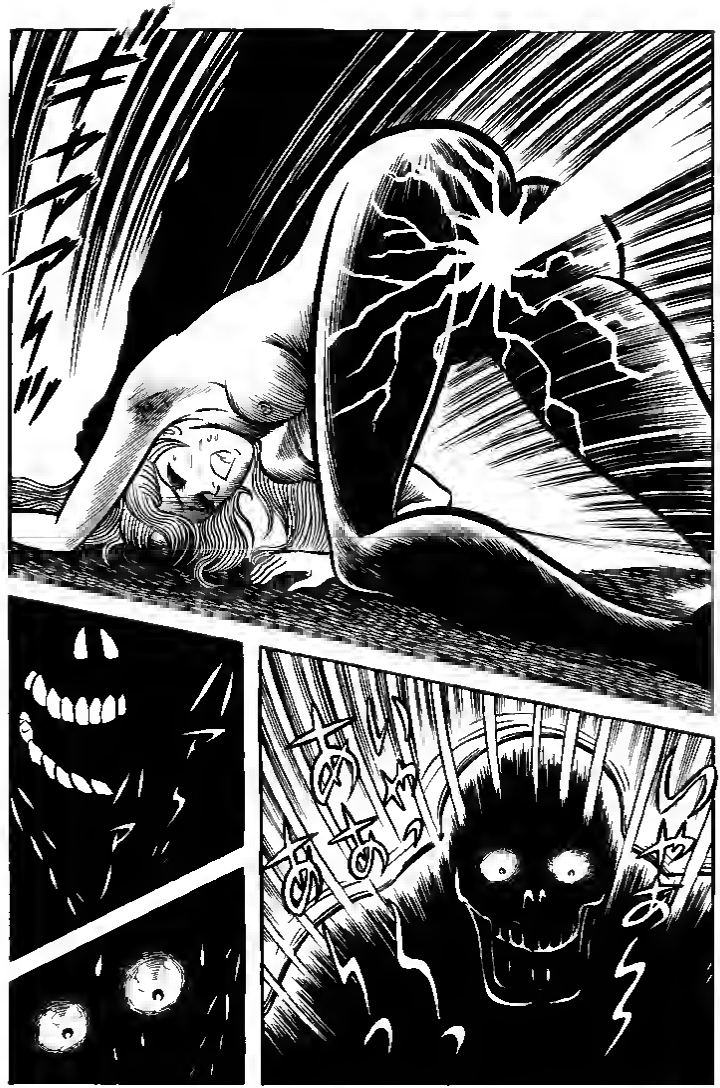
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AOHIKO! SAVE ME!!
HELP ME!
TELL ME THAT THIS IS JUST A DREAM...!
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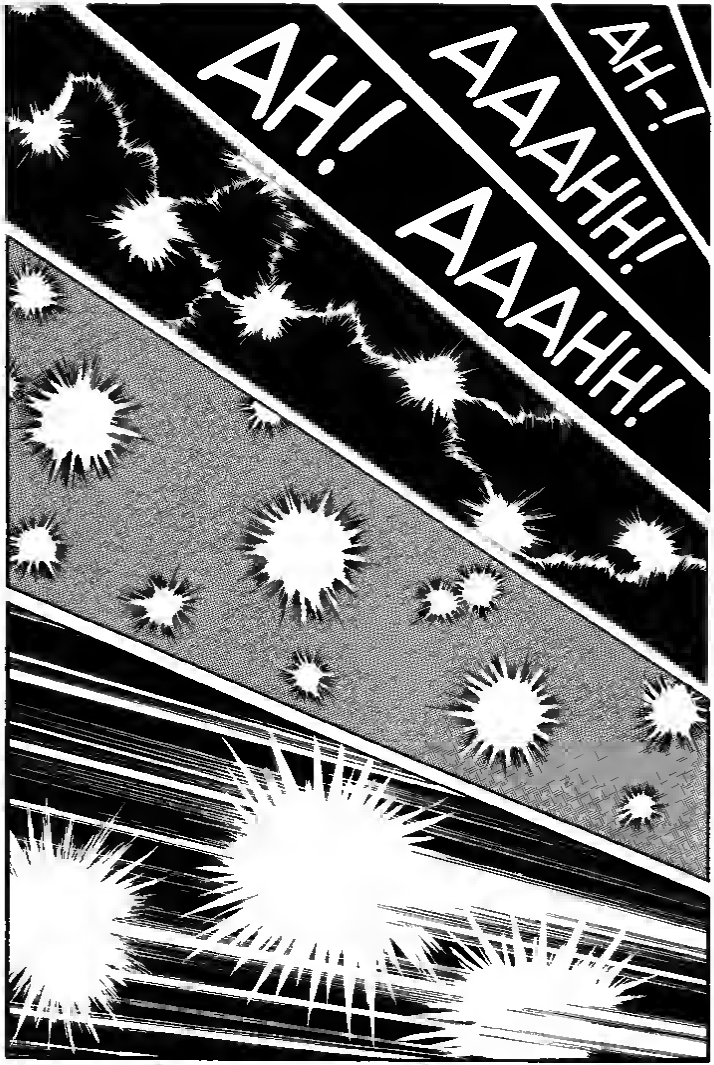
AH!
AAAHH!
AH!
AAAHH!

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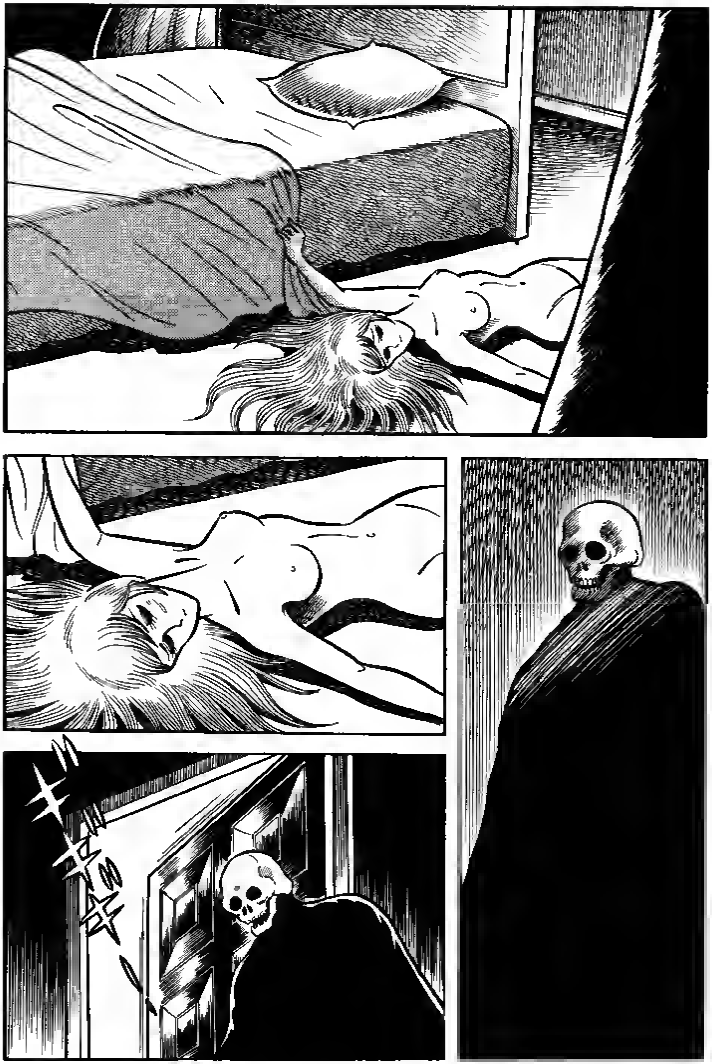
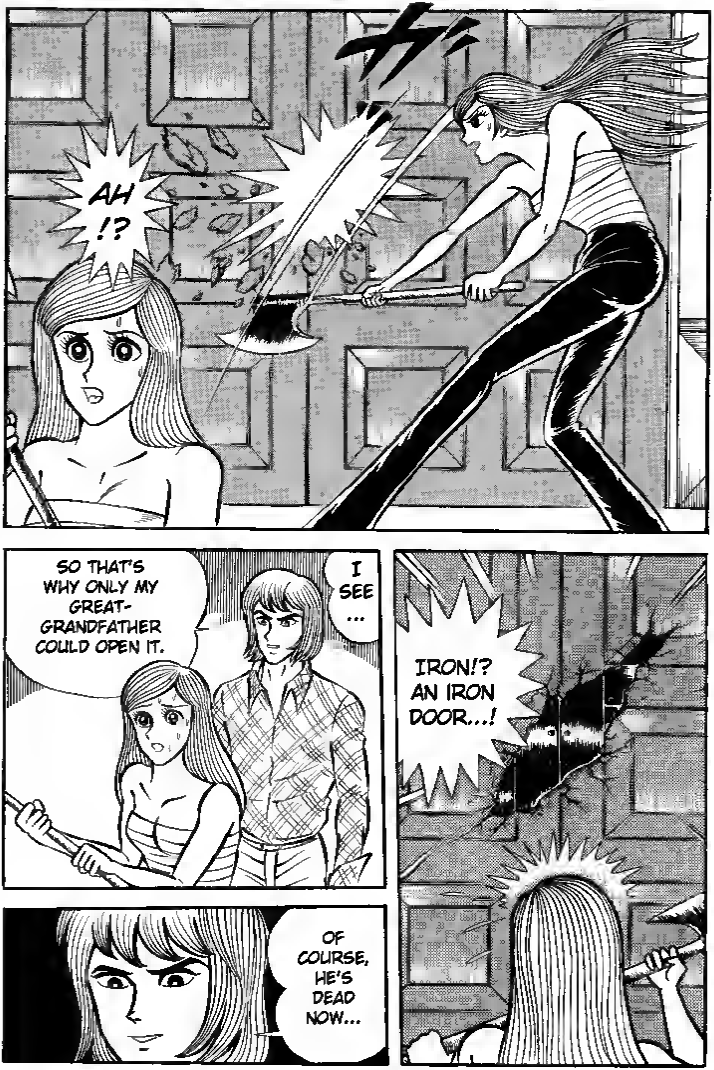
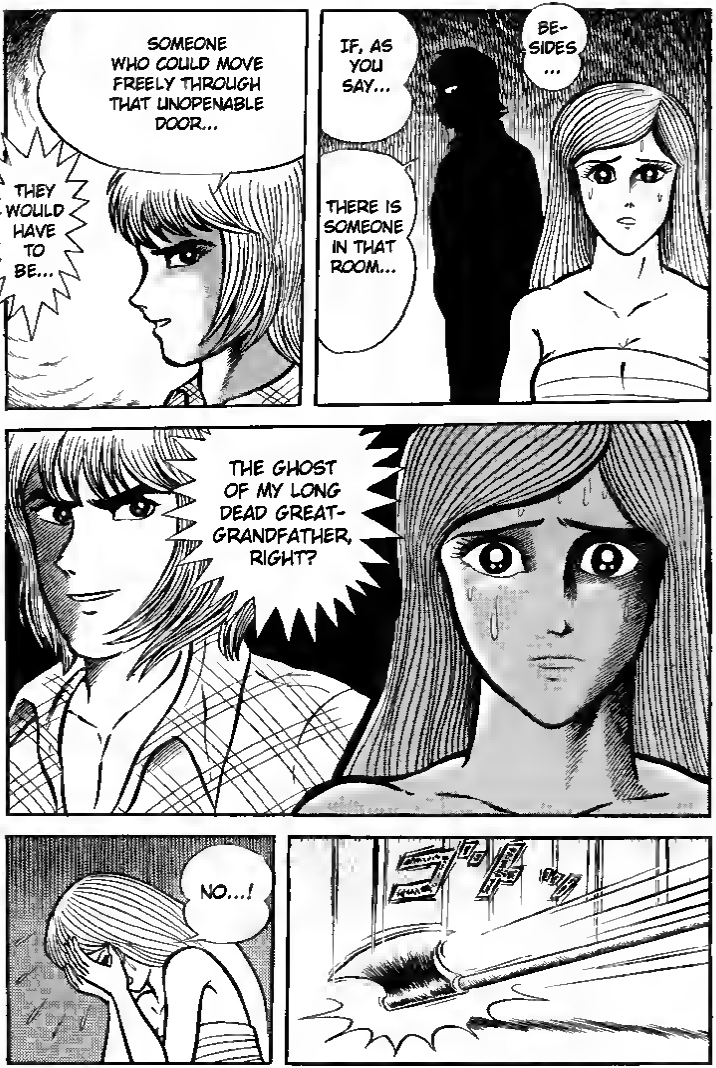
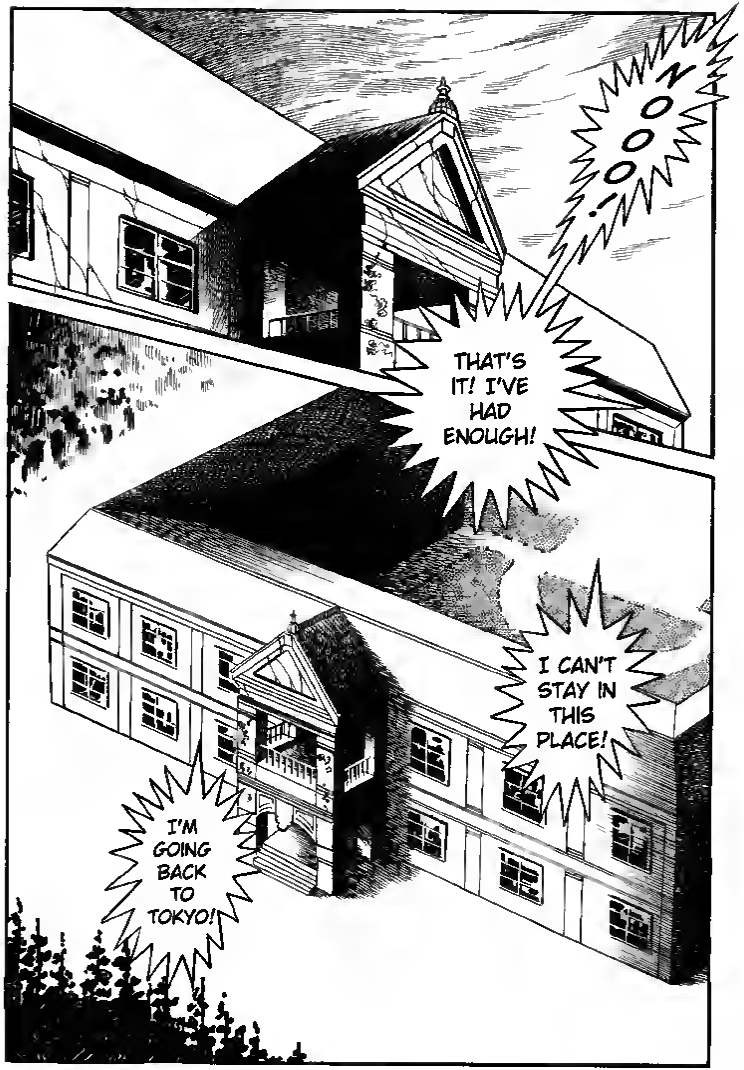


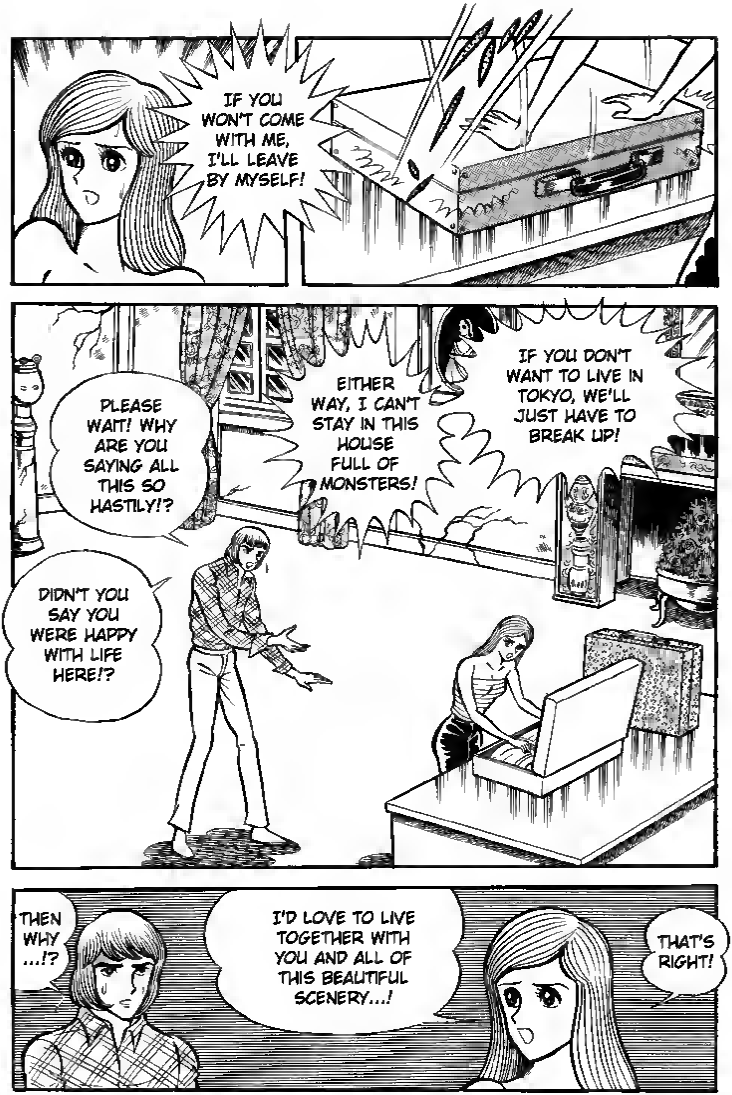
HUH!? YOU NEED ME TO OPEN THAT ROOM...!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, WE CAN'T OPEN THIS DOOR.
THERE'S NO WAY TO OPEN IT WITHOUT THE KEY.
OPEN IT.
I WANT TO OPEN IT NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
I'D OPEN IT IF I COULD, BUT THERE'S JUST NO WAY.

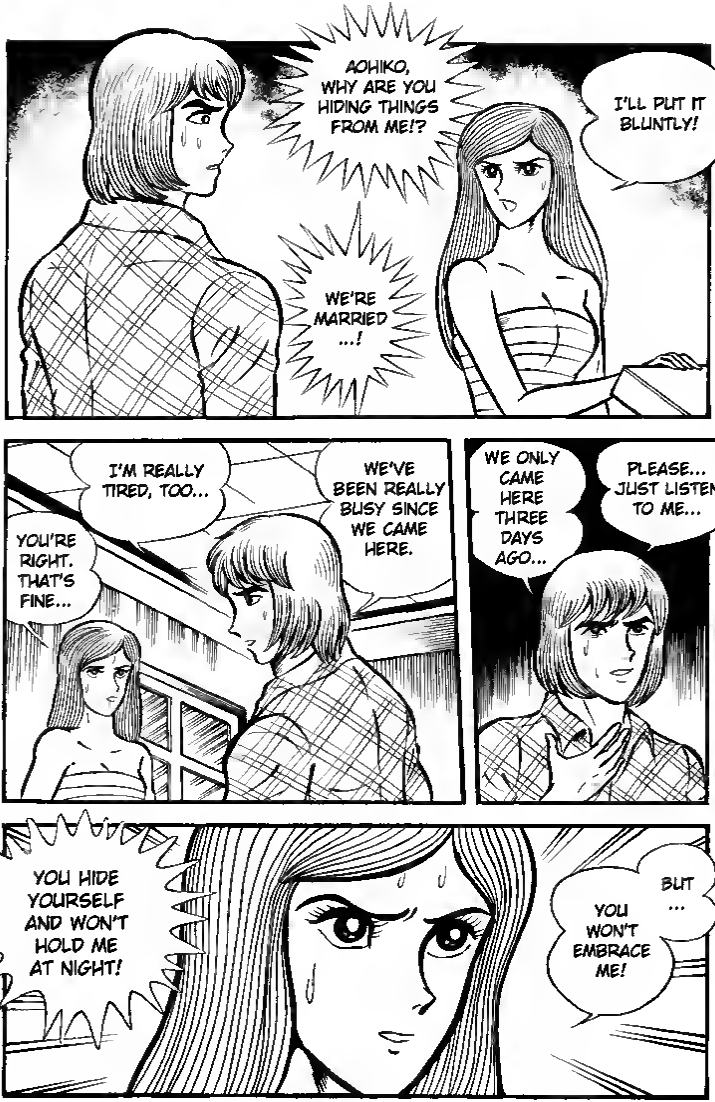
IF THIS MANSION HAS A SECRET, IT MUST BE IN THAT ROOM!
JUST WHAT IS THAT SKULL MAN?
AOHIKO, I'LL FIND OUT WHAT YOU'RE HIDING AS WELL!
FINE ...!
I WON'T ASK YOU TO HELP ANYMORE.
I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
KAORI, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
KAORI ...?
I'LL UNCOVER THIS MANSION'S SECRET...!


AH !?
I SEE ...
SO THAT'S WHY ONLY MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER COULD OPEN IT.
IRON!? AN IRON DOOR...!
OF COURSE, HE'S DEAD NOW...


SOMEONE WHO COULD MOVE FREELY THROUGH THAT UNOPENABLE DOOR...
THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE...
IF, AS YOU SAY...
BE-SIDES ...
THERE IS SOMEONE IN THAT ROOM...
THE GHOST OF MY LONG DEAD GREAT-GRANDFATHER, RIGHT?
NO...!


NOOO
THAT'S IT! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
I CAN'T STAY IN THIS PLACE!
I'M GOING BACK TO TOKYO!

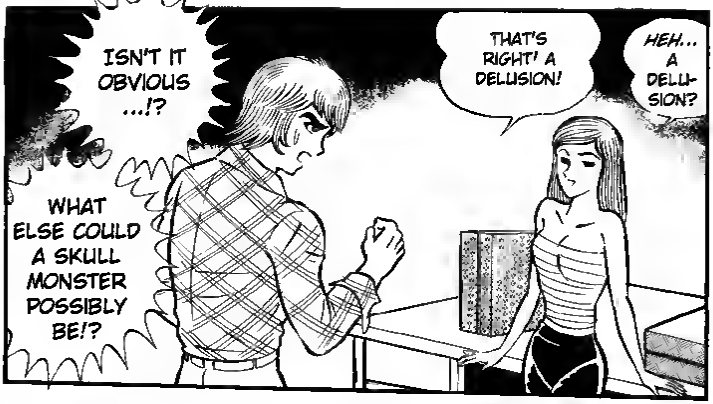

IF YOU WON'T COME WITH ME, I'LL LEAVE BY MYSELF!
PLEASE WAIT! WHY ARE YOU SAYING ALL THIS SO HASTILY!?
EITHER WAY, I CAN'T STAY IN THIS HOUSE FULL OF MONSTERS!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN TOKYO, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BREAK UP!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE HAPPY WITH LIFE HERE!?
THEN WHY ...!?
I'D LOVE TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOU AND ALL OF THIS BEAUTIFUL SCENERY...!
THAT'S RIGHT!

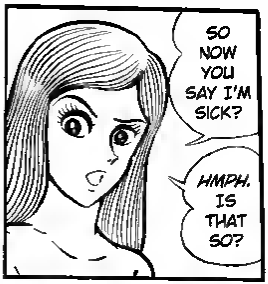

AOHIKO, WHY ARE YOU HIDING THINGS FROM ME!?
I'LL PUT IT BLUNTLY!
WE'RE MARRIED ...!
I'M REALLY TIRED, TOO...
WE'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY SINCE WE CAME HERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S FINE...
WE ONLY CAME HERE THREE DAYS AGO...
PLEASE... JUST LISTEN TO ME...
YOU HIDE YOURSELF AND WON'T HOLD ME AT NIGHT!
BUT ... YOU WON'T EMBRACE ME!

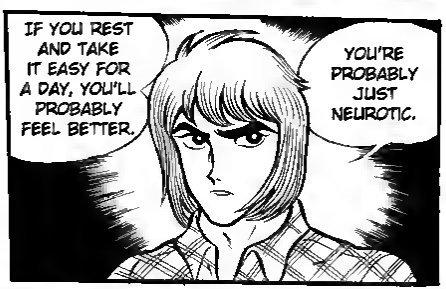
AND ALSO ...
JUST WHAT IS THAT SKULL MONSTER ...!?

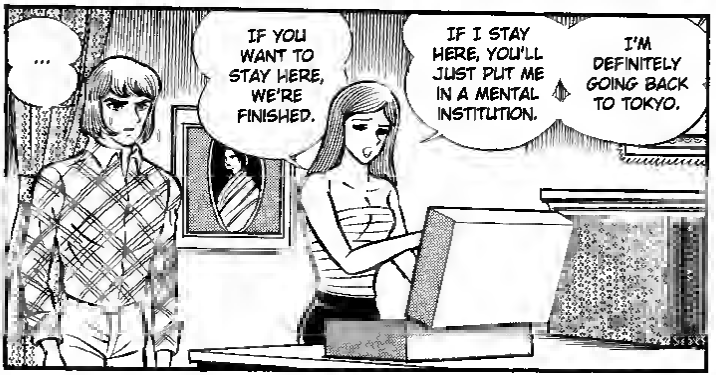
AOHIKO! YOU JUST SLEEP SOUNDLY AT NIGHT WHILE YOUR WIFE IS EMBRACED BY A MONSTER!!
AOHIKO, COULD IT BE THAT...
YOU PLANNED ALL OF THIS!?

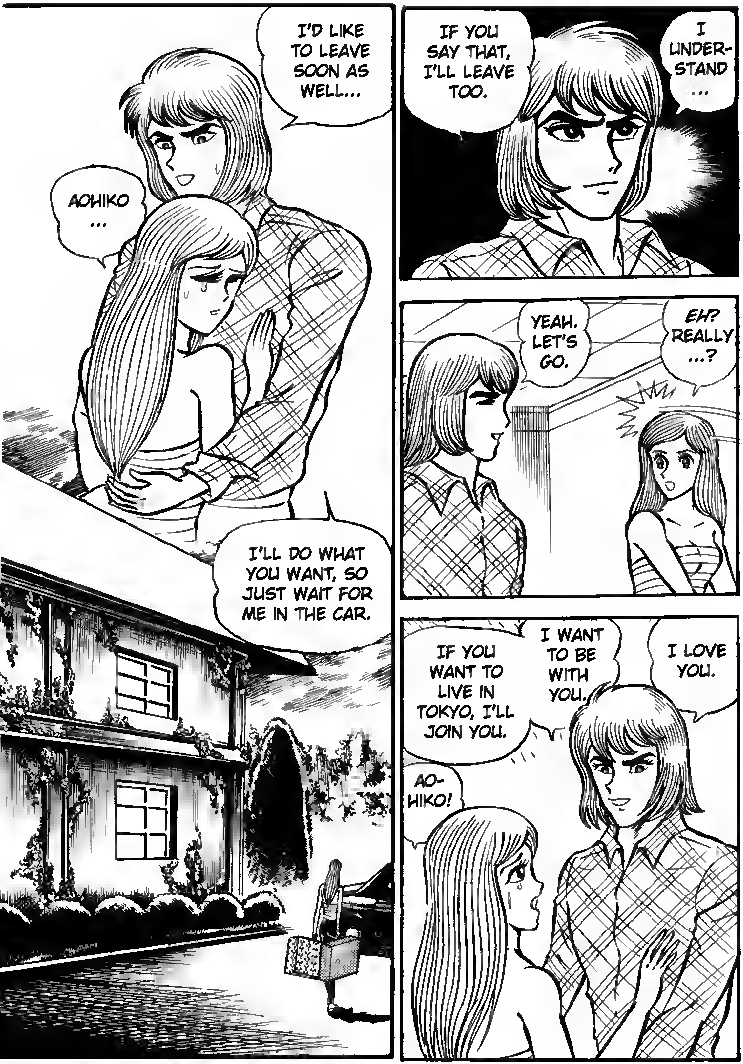
YOU WON'T STOP TALKING ABOUT THAT SKULL MONSTER!
AGAIN ABOUT THAT SKULL !?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS ...!
IT'S JUST A DELUSION ...!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS THAT IT'S JUST INSIDE YOUR HEAD!?
STOP SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT!
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING IT!?


ISN'T IT OBVIOUS ...!?
WHAT ELSE COULD A SKULL MONSTER POSSIBLY BE!?
THAT'S RIGHT! A DELUSION!
HEH... A DELU-SION?

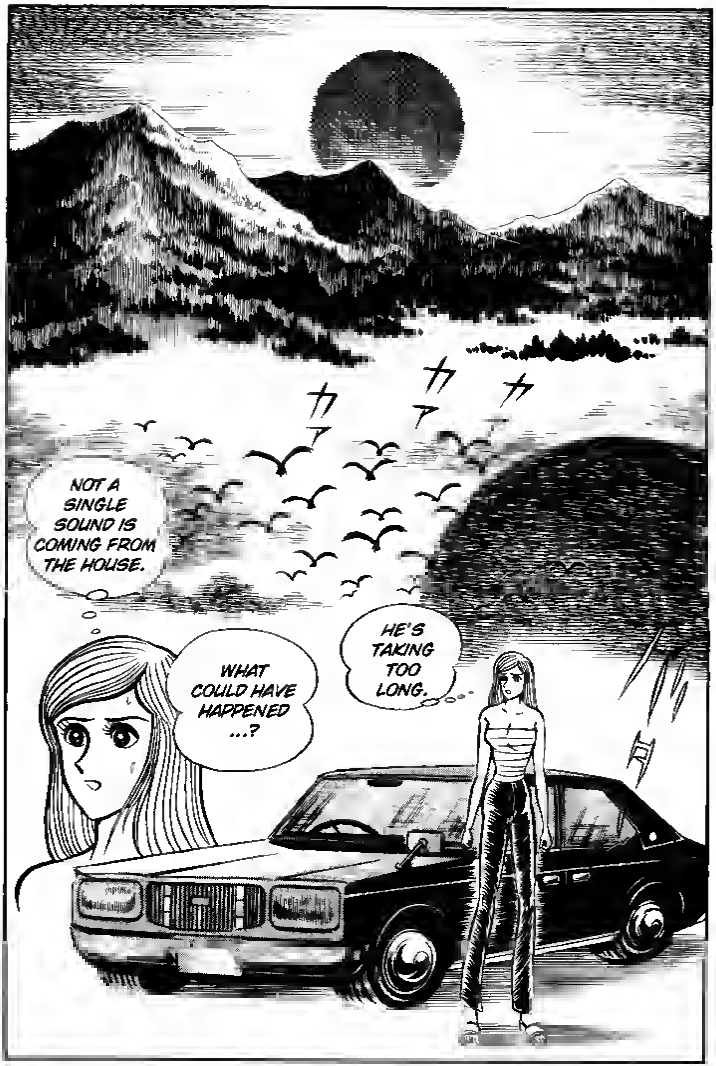

SO NOW YOU SAY I'M SICK?
HMPH. IS THAT SO?

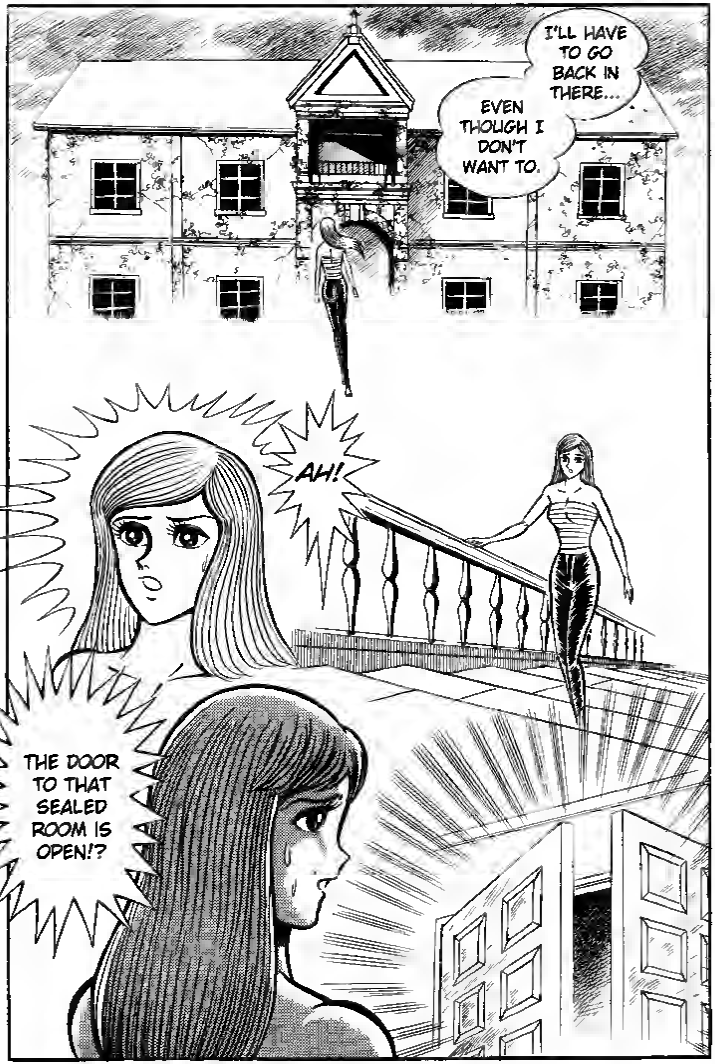

IF YOU REST AND TAKE IT EASY FOR A DAY, YOU'LL PROBABLY FEEL BETTER.
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST NEUROTIC.

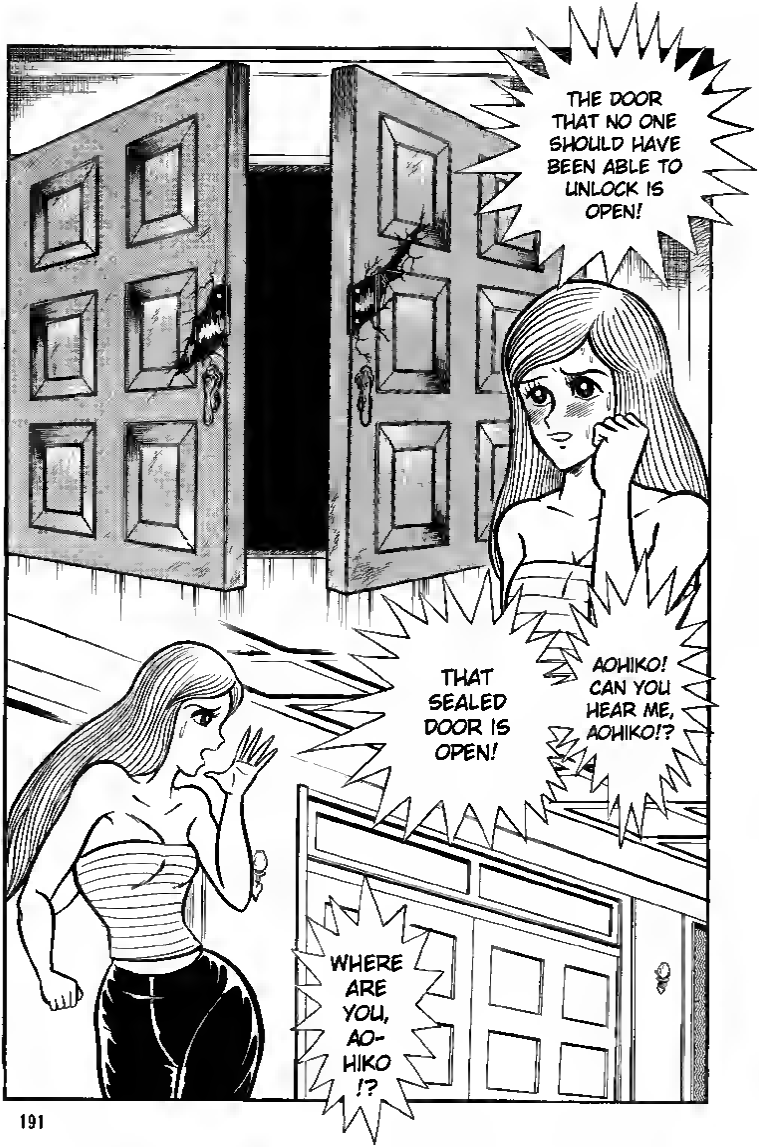

...
IF YOU WANT TO STAY HERE, WE'RE FINISHED.
IF I STAY HERE, YOU'LL JUST PUT ME IN A MENTAL INSTITUTION.
I'M DEFINITELY GOING BACK TO TOKYO.

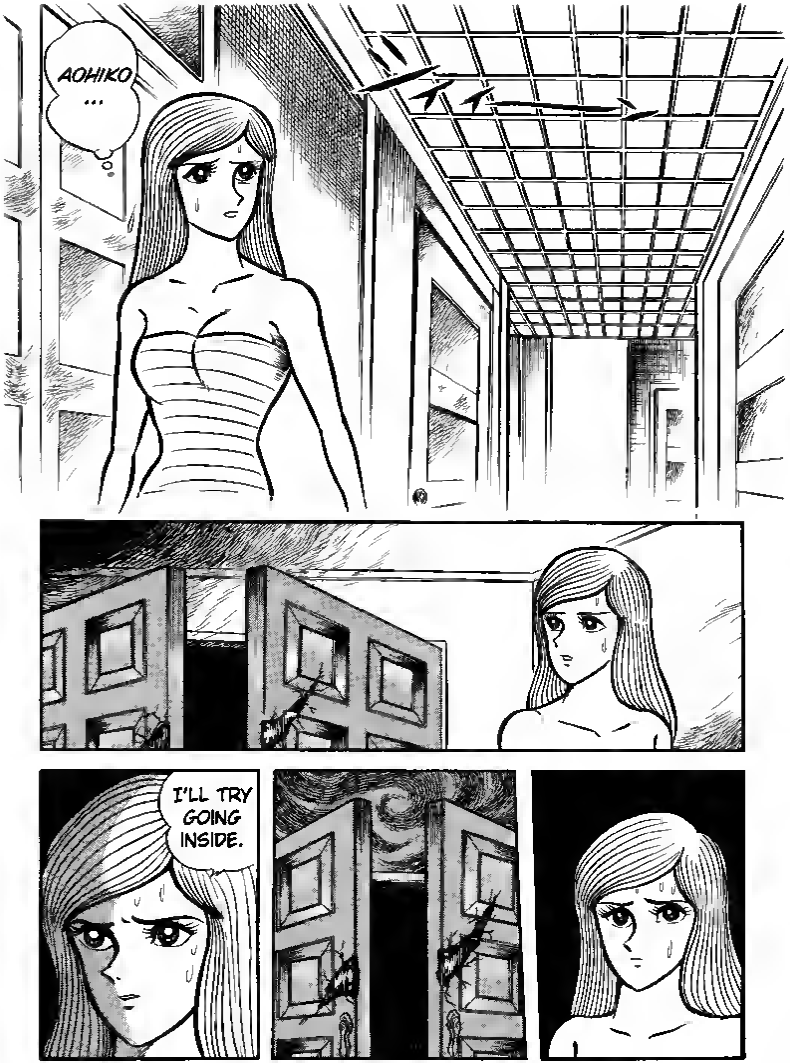

I'D LIKE TO LEAVE SOON AS WELL...
AOHIKO ...
I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT, SO JUST WAIT FOR ME IN THE CAR.
IF YOU SAY THAT, I'LL LEAVE TOO.
I UNDER-STAND ...
YEAH. LET'S GO.
EH? REALLY ...?
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE IN TOKYO, I'LL JOIN YOU.
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.
I LOVE YOU.
AO-HIKO!

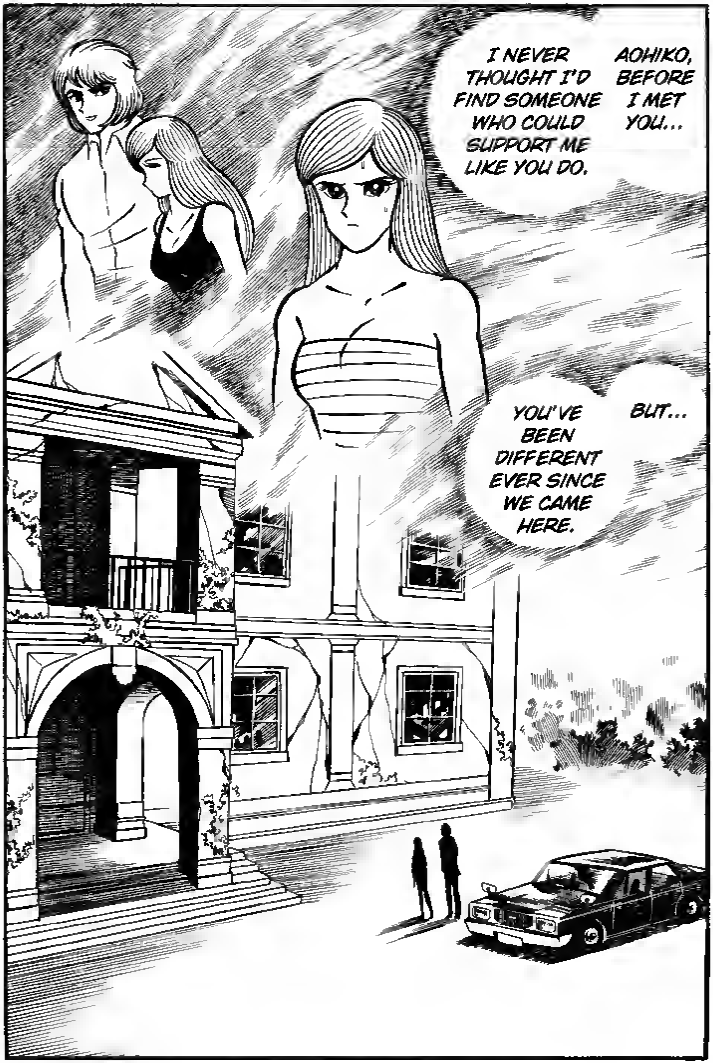
HE'S TAKING A WHILE ...
WHAT COULD HE BE DOING?


NOT A SINGLE SOUND IS COMING FROM THE HOUSE.
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED ...?
HE'S TAKING TOO LONG.

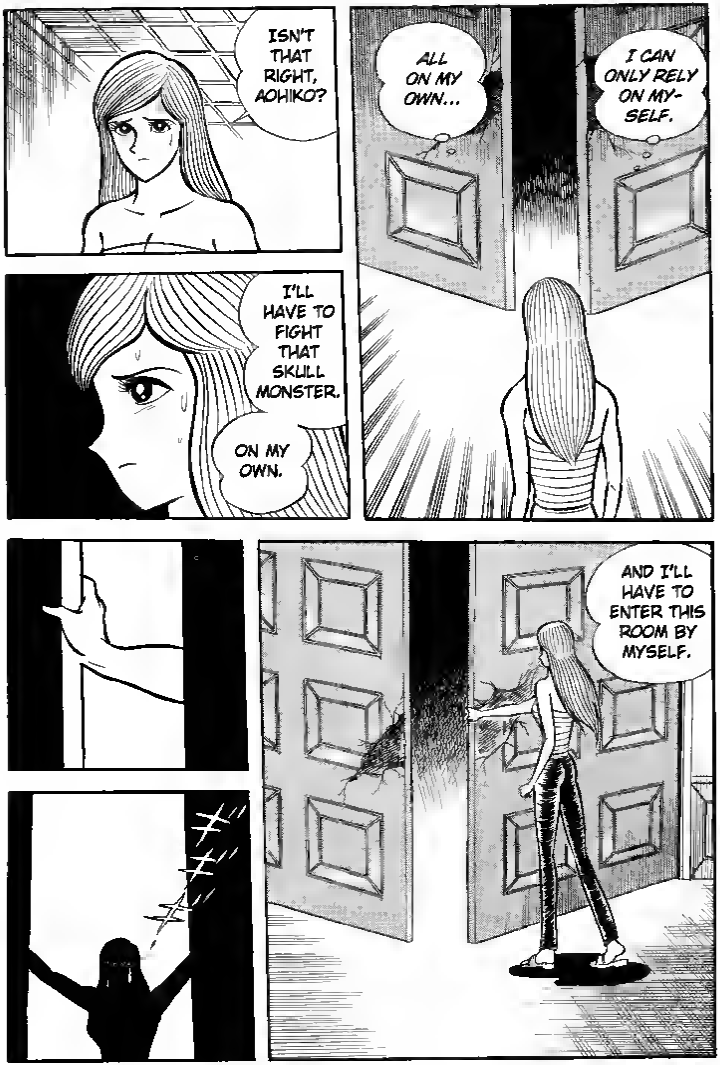

I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK IN THERE...
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT TO.
AH!
THE DOOR TO THAT SEALED ROOM IS OPEN!?

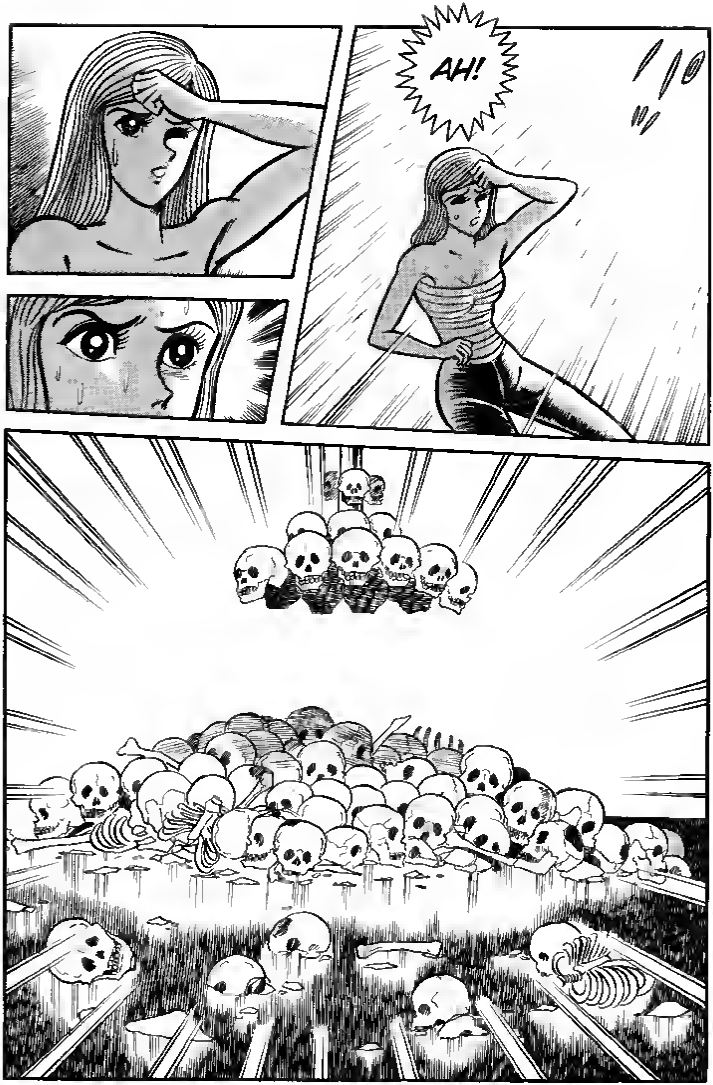

THE DOOR THAT NO ONE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO UNLOCK IS OPEN!
AOHIKO! CAN YOU HEAR ME, AOHIKO!?
THAT SEALED DOOR IS OPEN!
WHERE ARE YOU, AO-HIKO!?


AOHIKO
...
I'LL TRY GOING INSIDE.

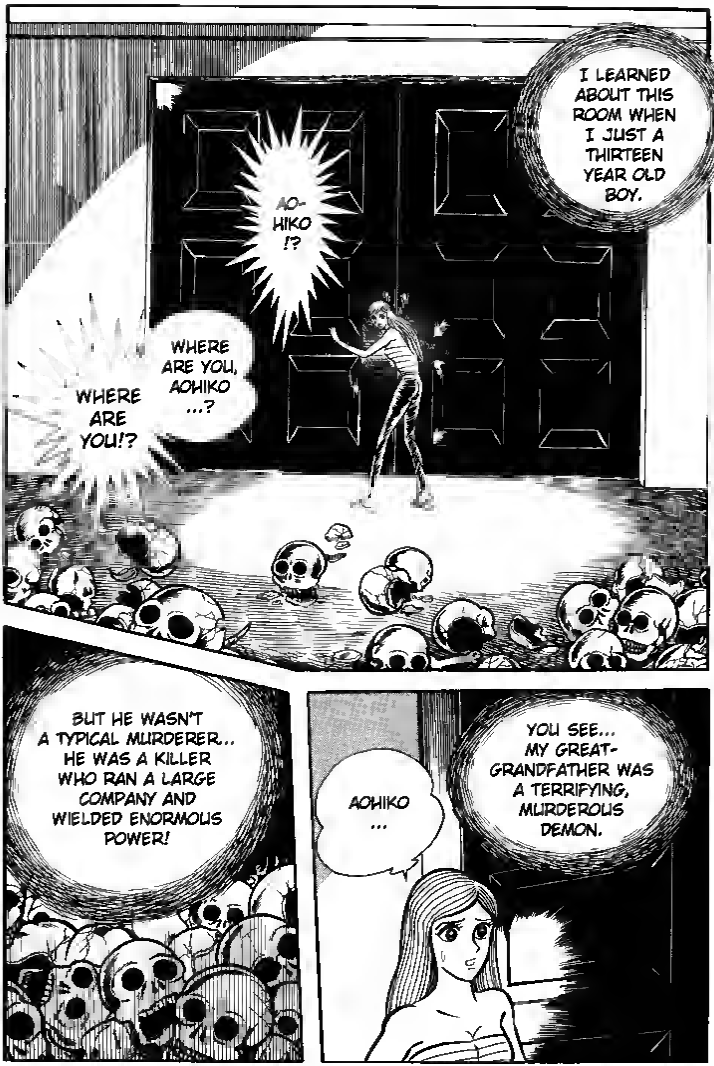

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D FIND SOMEONE WHO COULD SUPPORT ME LIKE YOU DO.
AOHIKO, BEFORE I MET YOU...
YOU'VE BEEN DIFFERENT EVER SINCE WE CAME HERE.
BUT...

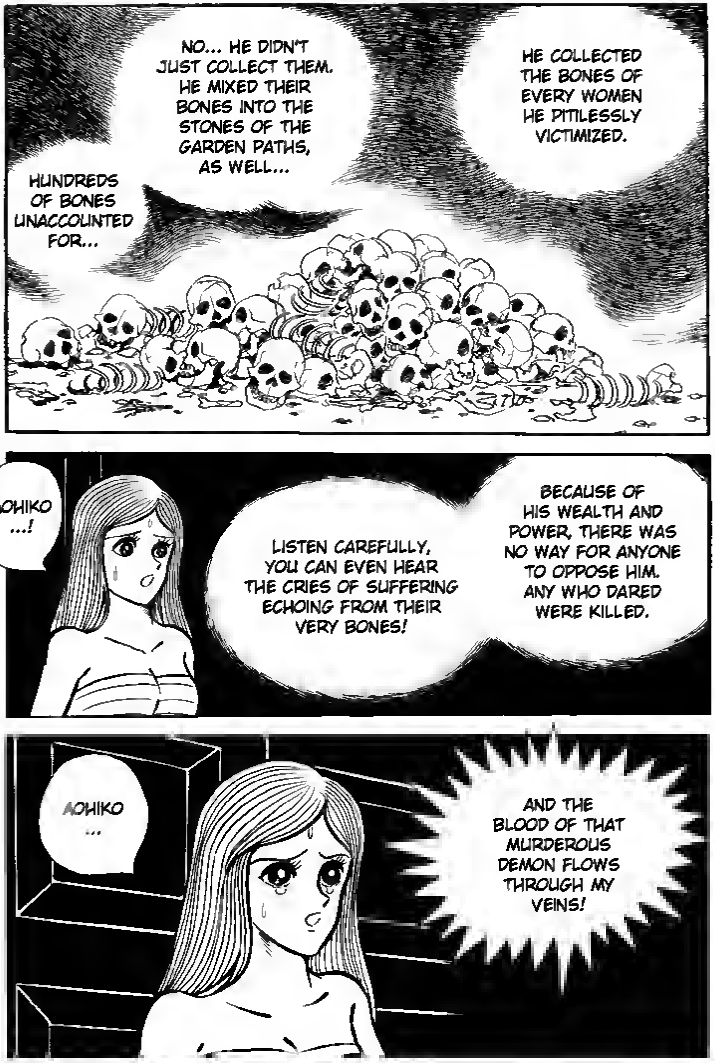
WHEN I CALLED FOR YOU TO HELP ME...
YOU NEVER CAME TO MY RESCUE!
NO MATTER WHAT HORRIBLE THINGS I SUFFERED THROUGH, YOU WERE NEVER THERE.

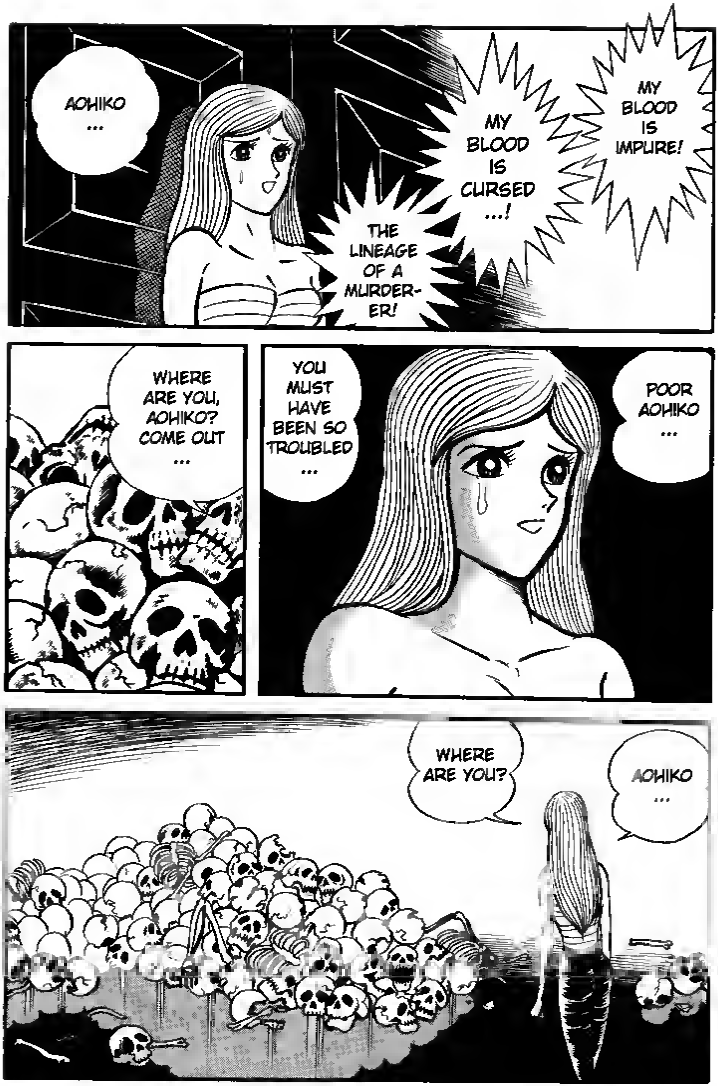

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, AOHIKO?
ALL ON MY OWN...
I CAN ONLY RELY ON MY-SELF.
I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT THAT SKULL MONSTER.
ON MY OWN.
AND I'LL HAVE TO ENTER THIS ROOM BY MYSELF.


AH!

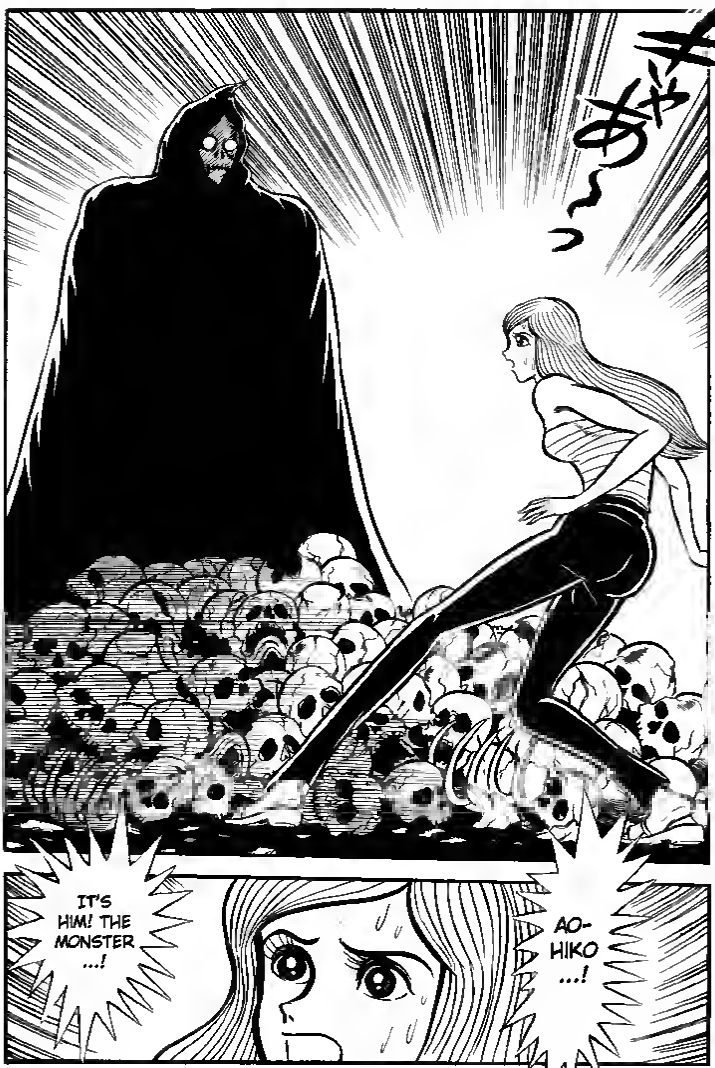
AAAH!
KYAAAH!
IT WON'T OPEN !?
KYAAAAAAAH!


I LEARNED ABOUT THIS ROOM WHEN I JUST A THIRTEEN YEAR OLD BOY.
AO-HIKO !?
WHERE ARE YOU, AOHIKO ...?
WHERE ARE YOU!?
BUT HE WASN'T A TYPICAL MURDERER... HE WAS A KILLER WHO RAN A LARGE COMPANY AND WIELDED ENORMOUS POWER!
YOU SEE... MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS A TERRIFYING, MURDEROUS DEMON.
AOHIKO ...


HUNDREDS OF BONES UNACCOUNTED FOR...
NO... HE DIDN'T JUST COLLECT THEM. HE MIXED THEIR BONES INTO THE STONES OF THE GARDEN PATHS, AS WELL...
HE COLLECTED THE BONES OF EVERY WOMEN HE PITILESSLY VICTIMIZED.
AOHIKO ...!
LISTEN CAREFULLY, YOU CAN EVEN HEAR THE CRIES OF SUFFERING ECHOING FROM THEIR VERY BONES!
BECAUSE OF HIS WEALTH AND POWER, THERE WAS NO WAY FOR ANYONE TO OPPOSE HIM. ANY WHO DARED WERE KILLED.
AOHIKO ...
AND THE BLOOD OF THAT MURDEROUS DEMON FLOWS THROUGH MY VEINS!


AOHIKO ...
THE LINEAGE OF A MURDER-ER!
MY BLOOD IS CURSED ...!
MY BLOOD IS IMPURE!
WHERE ARE YOU, AOHIKO? COME OUT ...
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SO TROUBLED ...
POOR AOHIKO ...
WHERE ARE YOU?
AOHIKO ...

HUH?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IT'S HIM! THE MONSTER ...!
AO-HIKO ...!

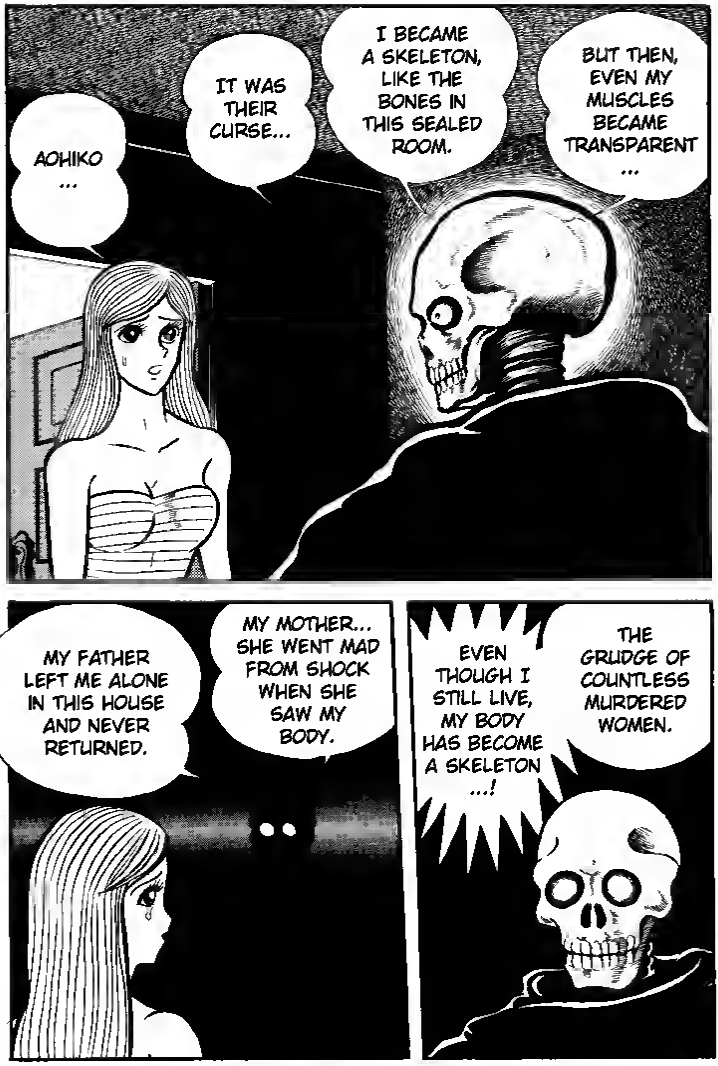
WHEN YOU SAY AOHIKO, DO YOU MEAN THIS MASK?
KYAAH!
YOU'RE AOHIKO ...!?
BEHOLD! THIS IS AOHIKO SANJOU'S TRUE FACE...!

THIS IS THE TRUE FORM OF THE CURSED SANJOU FAMILY!!
THIS HIDEOUS BODY!
LOOK AT THIS FACE!
AOHIKO ...!

WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN, MY CURIOSITY LED ME TO FIND THE KEY TO THIS ROOM!
AND I FOUND OUT...
I LEARNED WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE MY ANCESTORS WERE!
I CRIED AND CRIED...
THE SHAMEFUL BLOOD OF A MURDERER FLOWS THROUGH MY VEINS!
THE EVIL OF MY ANCESTORS WAS TRULY TERRIFYING ...!

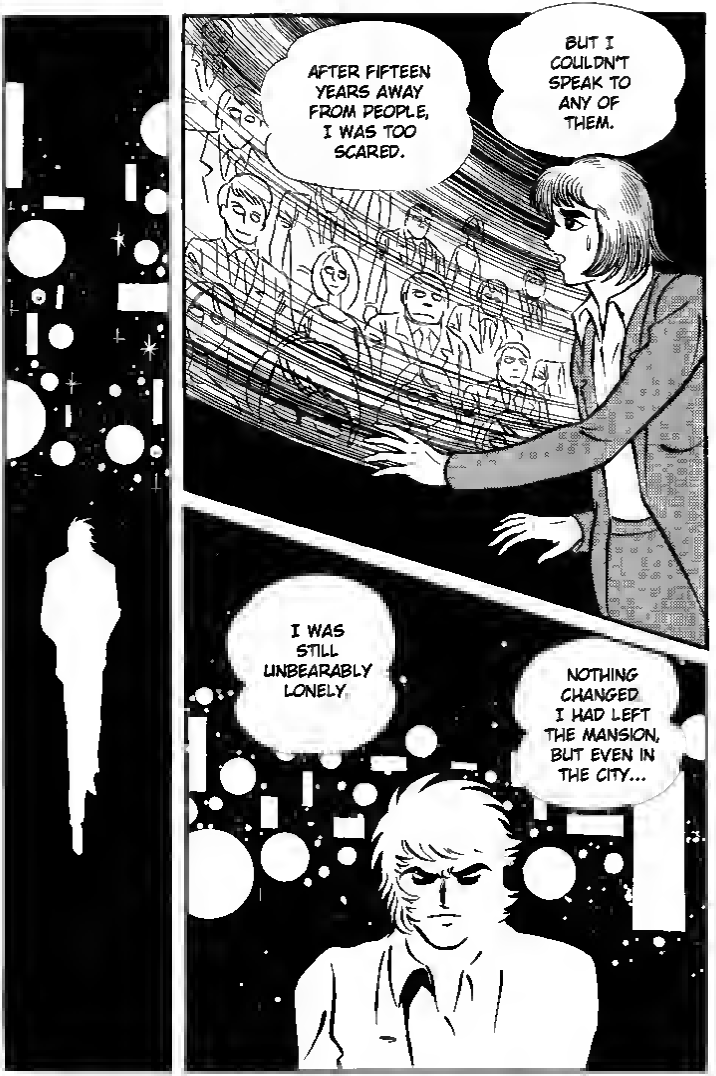
MY SKIN HAD TURNED BLACK...
I CRIED FOR A DAY AND A NIGHT... AND FOUND THAT MY BODY HAD CHANGED!
EVEN MY EYES TURNED BLACK!
IN CONTRAST, MY HAIR BECAME WHITE.
BUT THE TRUE TERROR OF THE CURSE HAD YET TO MANIFEST.

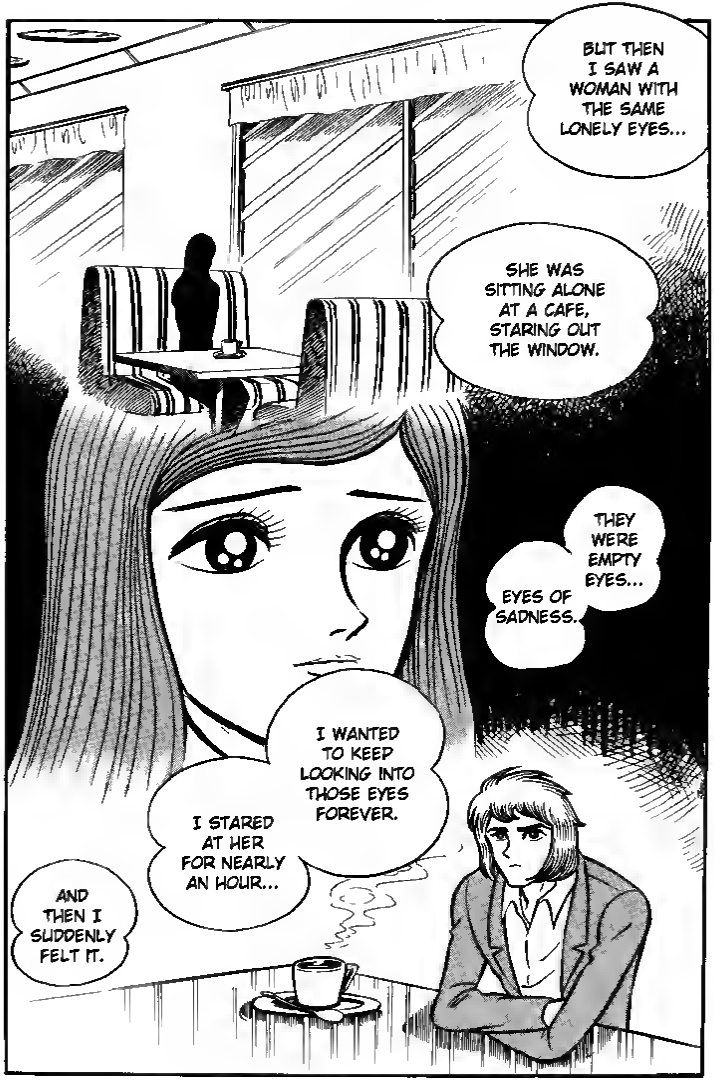
MY HAIR ALSO BECAME CLEAR AND SEE-THROUGH.
AFTER MY SKIN HAD TURNED BLACK... IT BECAME TRANSPARENT!
IT WAS A TERRIFYING BODY...
A LIVING ANATOMICAL MODEL!
ALL OF MY MUSCLES AND ORGANS WERE NOW VISIBLE.


AOHIKO ...
IT WAS THEIR CURSE...
I BECAME A SKELETON, LIKE THE BONES IN THIS SEALED ROOM.
BUT THEN, EVEN MY MUSCLES BECAME TRANSPARENT ...
MY FATHER LEFT ME ALONE IN THIS HOUSE AND NEVER RETURNED.
MY MOTHER... SHE WENT MAD FROM SHOCK WHEN SHE SAW MY BODY.
EVEN THOUGH I STILL LIVE, MY BODY HAS BECOME A SKELETON ...!
THE GRUDGE OF COUNTLESS MURDERED WOMEN.

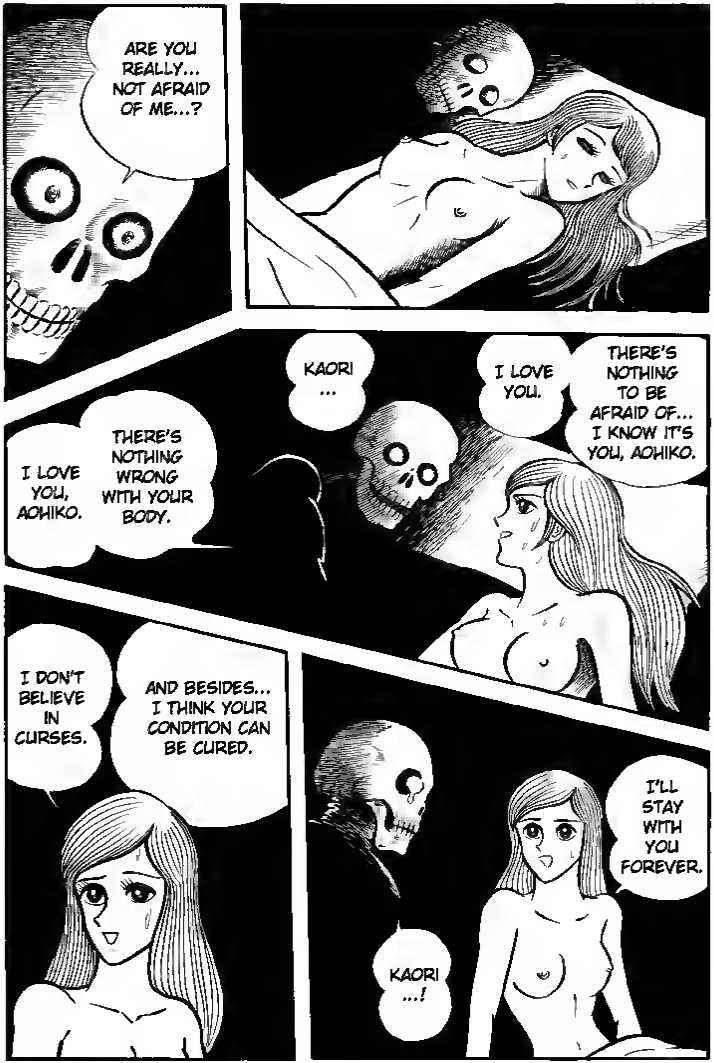
I HID BEHIND THIS MASK AND LIVED ALONE.
I ESCAPED THE EYES BY LIVING IN THIS HOUSE.
MONEY WASN'T AN ISSUE ...
BUT ...
I WAS LONELY.
I WANTED SOMEONE TO LOVE...

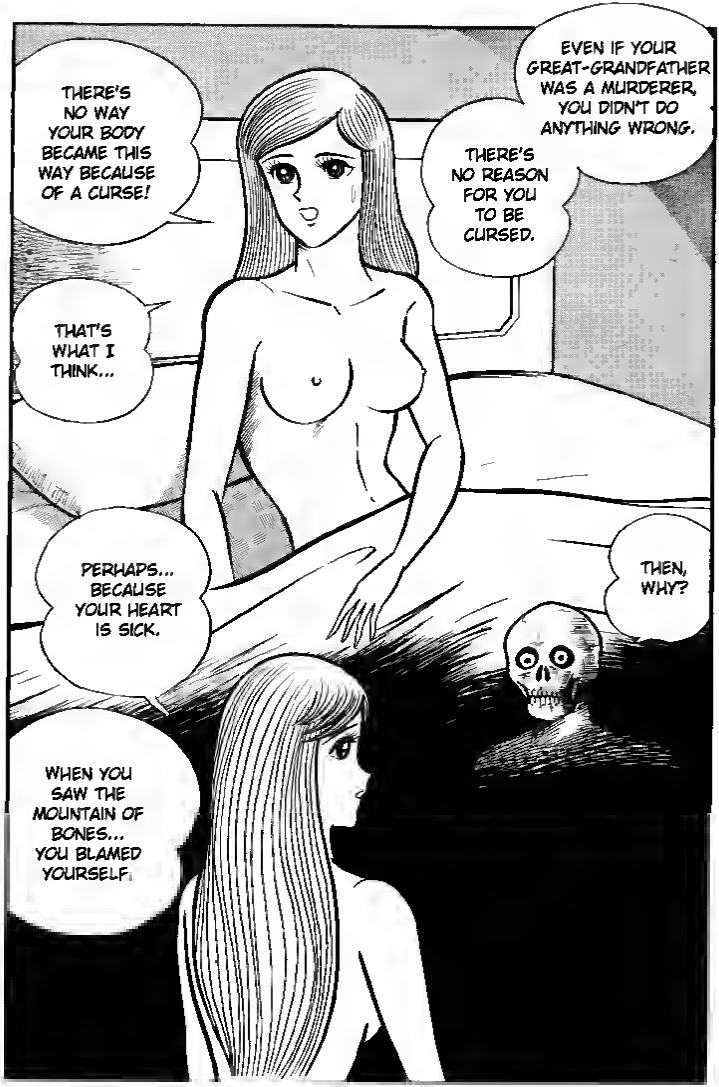
MECHANICAL
HEAD ON
SO I CAME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS.
IT HAD BEEN FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE MY BODY CHANGED...
I HID MY FACE WITH A MASK, ROAMING THE CITY AT NIGHT.
AND I SAW MANY PEOPLE ...!

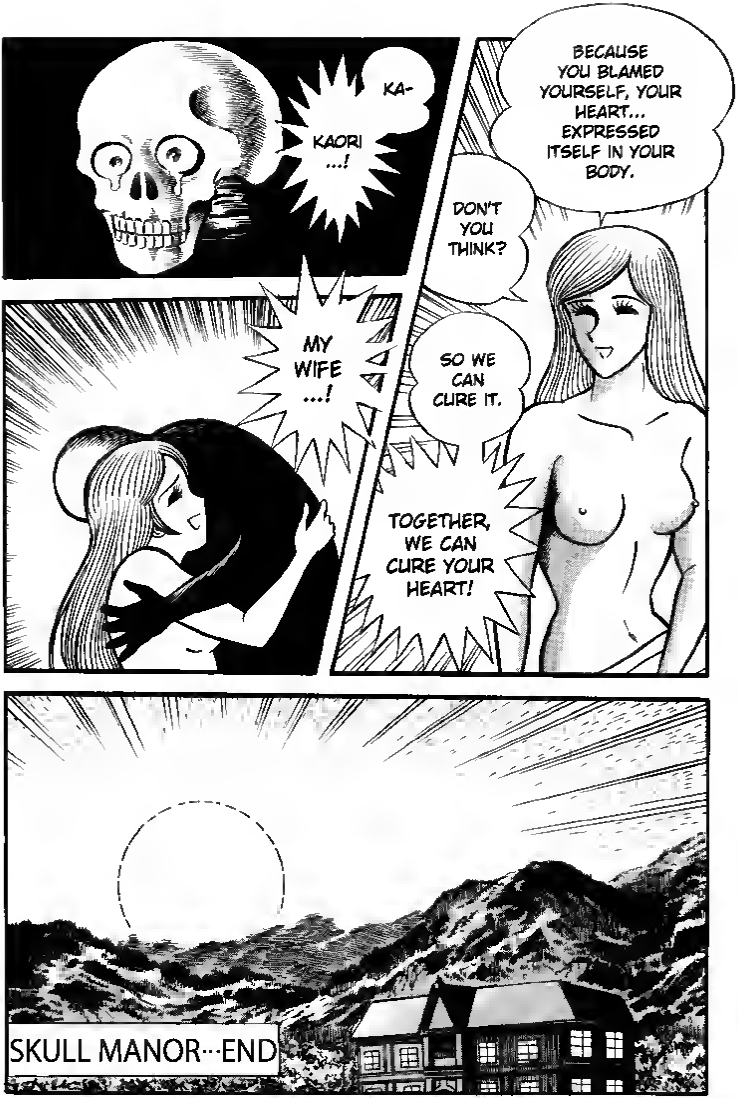

AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS AWAY FROM PEOPLE, I WAS TOO SCARED.
BUT I COULDN'T SPEAK TO ANY OF THEM.
I WAS STILL UNBEARABLY LONELY
NOTHING CHANGED I HAD LEFT THE MANSION, BUT EVEN IN THE CITY...


BUT THEN I SAW A WOMAN WITH THE SAME LONELY EYES...
SHE WAS SITTING ALONE AT A CAFE, STARING OUT THE WINDOW.
THEY WERE EMPTY EYES...
EYES OF SADNESS.
I WANTED TO KEEP LOOKING INTO THOSE EYES FOREVER.
I STARED AT HER FOR NEARLY AN HOUR...
AND THEN I SUDDENLY FELT IT.

I COULD TALK TO THIS PERSON IS WHAT I THOUGHT!
AND ...
I STOOD UP WITH A QUAKING HEART.
W- WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK FOR A BIT?
UM AH... ...


ARE YOU REALLY... NOT AFRAID OF ME...?
KAORI ...
I LOVE YOU.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF... I KNOW IT'S YOU, AOHIKO.
I LOVE YOU, AOHIKO.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR BODY.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN CURSES.
AND BESIDES... I THINK YOUR CONDITION CAN BE CURED.
KAORI ...!
I'LL STAY WITH YOU FOREVER.


EVEN IF YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS A MURDERER, YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO BE CURSED.
THERE'S NO WAY YOUR BODY BECAME THIS WAY BECAUSE OF A CURSE!
THAT'S WHAT I THINK...
THEN, WHY?
PERHAPS... BECAUSE YOUR HEART IS SICK.
WHEN YOU SAW THE MOUNTAIN OF BONES... YOU BLAMED YOURSELF.


KA-
KAORI ...!
MY WIFE ...!
BECAUSE YOU BLAMED YOURSELF, YOUR HEART... EXPRESSED ITSELF IN YOUR BODY.
DON'T YOU THINK?
SO WE CAN CURE IT.
TOGETHER, WE CAN CURE YOUR HEART!
SKULL MANOR···END

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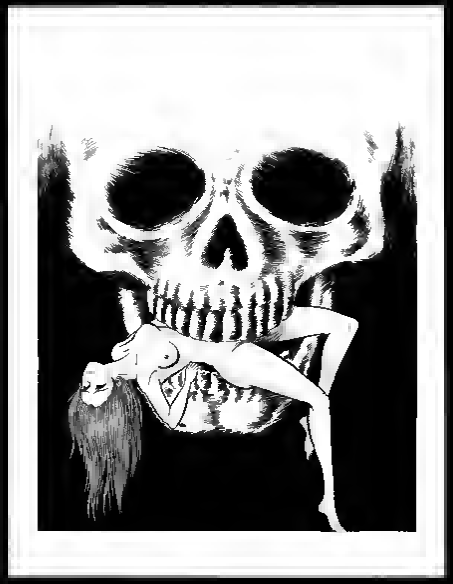

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TRANSLATOR NOTES

CHAPTER 2: THE TITLE OF CHAPTER 2 REFERS TO A JAPANESE CHILDREN'S GAME KNOWN AS ONIGOKKO (LITERAL MEANING: PLAYING AT BEING AN ORGE/DEMON) IN WHICH THE "DEMON" CHASES THOSE WHO TRY TO HIDE.

CHAPTER 3, PAGE 52: THIS SONG IS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE WEDDING CHANT.

CHAPTER 4: KOUENJI HIROSHI IS THE PEN NAME OF GO NAGAI'S YOUNGER BROTHER, YASUTAKA NAGAI.